THE

Hiſtorie of the life

and fortune of Don Frederigo *di terra Nuoua*.

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the Writer.

Cœlum virtutis Patria.
N. Breton.

At London,
Printed by Iohn Charlewoode, for
Rice Iohnes, and are to be ſold at his ſhop
without Algate, ouer againſt the Church.
Anno. Dom. 1590.

To the right Worſhipfull his very good friende, Richard Blount, Eſquire: health, honor, and heauen.

(*.*)

SIR, I am perſwaded my deſerts in your fauour haue beene ſo little, & my diſgraces in fortune ſo greate, as that you will not a little muſe, what hath made mee, enter into this preſumption, to preſent you with a worke of ſo little woorth: but, when I remember Vertue hath a Spirite, that will bee none other then her ſelfe, and that God alwaies receiueth, whom the world refuſeth, I am ſo bold, vpon the knowledge of your diſcretion, as without feare of diſdaine, to preſume thus farre of your fauour, as to looke vpon my work, howſoeuer you will like of the fashion, and as much (to my content) to honor it in your kindnes, as a man of greater name, to grace it in his title.

If I should diſcourſe vnto you what it were, it would giue you perhaps the leſſe ſtomack to reade

To the Reader.

HOwe harde a thing it is for the conceit of any one man to pleaſe the humors of all men, the wiſe can giue iudgement, and for the reſt, I deſire not theyr opinions. Rare and true, are harde to hitte in one ſubiect, and howe trifles may be valued, the vertuous can eaſily conſider. For my ſelfe, if I ſhould enter into ſo manie varieties of matter, as there are founde vanities in mens affections, I ſhoulde either neuer begin any thing, or be ſure to make an end of nothing. But not to excuſe idlenes, with a word of too much ignorance, and ſomewhat to acquaint the natures of good diſpoſitions, with ſuch diſcourſes, as of late haue come into my handes, (in what Language it ſhall be needleſſe to recite) I haue taken a little paines in the beſt manner I can, rather in ſubſtance of matter, then in methode of ſpeech, to deliuer vnto you the diſcourſe of an vnhappy man, whoſe pittifull eſtate, truely conſidered, in the conceit of kinde diſcretion, may moue the honourable to the greater regarde of vertue, the learned to the loue of honour, and both to the compaſſion of loue. But leauing circumſtaunces to ceremonies, and both to their beſt compaſſe, I will referre you for your better vnderſtanding to, the iſſue of that which followeth. And ſo, as lothe to bee tedious, as troubleſome, I ende.

Your friende.

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IN the Confines of Portugall, there was (in the time that this hiſtory was written) a great Barron of the Countrey, called Don Bernardo di Terra Nuoua, which name (it ſhould ſeeme) he had taken, eyther by the fortunat finding out of ſome vnknown ſoyle, in long trauell, whereof (by good deſarte of ſeruice) hee was made gouernour, or that his Auncetours had the originall of their honour from ſuch a Country, as at that time, caryed no other name: but whether by this, or that, or any other accident whatſoeuer it fell out, I knowe not, but that ſuche a one there was, it is ſufficient. This Don Bernardo lyuing in ſuch regarde of honour, as beſeemed the eſtate of his deſarte: had by a Lady, that he marryed there in the Country, three ſonnes, and one daughter: to commend eyther the beautie of the Mother, or the wiſedome of the Father, were needeleſſe, when in the Children did appeare the whole perfection of the Parents: and for that my intent is onely to diſcourſe of the lyfe, fortune and fame, of one aboue the reſt, whom I haue found the ſubiect of this

Hiſtory, let me tell you, this Don Bernardo hauing as (I ſay) three ſonnes and one Daughter, whom during his life, hee did moſte carefully bring vp, in all ſuch honourable ornaments, as might beſt beſeeme the braunches of ſuch a tree, carrying in outward ſhewe to them all alike affectionate fauour, yet in the inwarde of his heart, one chiefly had his loue: this one was his laſt, and youngeſt, but his deereſt, and beſt eſteemed, whoe carying with his mothers face, his Fathers ſpirite, became the ioy of the one and the the Darling of the other. Now the Father deſirous to ſee the fruite of fortune, or the force of deſtenie, touching the proſperous lyfe, or vnhappy ſteppes, of this his worldes comfort, and the mother not much comforted in other then this her earthly felicity, deuiſed with themſelues how they might beſt determine of a courſe fit for the honour of their youth, whoſe name was Frederigo: ſo Chriſtened (as it was ſaid) by the Emperour, being at the time of his birth in that Country.

The Father not willing to immitate the Ape, in cruſhing his little one to death, with too much hugging in his armes, and yet loth to ſee him flie further then he might ſee the courſe of his winges, determined within himſelfe to feede his ſpirit, with humors aunſwereable to the same: when with the conſent of his mother, (thinking him for his learning ſo well furniſhed, as with a little exercise, in conuenient place and leyſure, might continue *Decorum* in his conceits) ſent him to the Courte of the King, ſo well in euery ſort appointed, to accompanie his equales, or attende his ſuperiors: as, what for the brauery of his apparell, choyce of Horſes, and ſtore of Crownes, among the gallants of the Court, who but Don Frederigo? Now, to aunſwere theſe outward partes, he was no leſſe finely ſhaped, then ſweetly demeanoured, his ſtature not to high, nor to lowe, his countenaunce, neither tirannous, nor to amorous, his ſpeeches not lowde nor whiſpering, his wit inferior to none of his age, and his diſcretion not a little in

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Frederigo liuing now in the Court, no leſſe accompanied with the moſt honourable, then beloued with the moſt virtuous, finding, that expence with idlenes, brought but loſſe with repentaunce, humors were no honours, and time loſt coulde neuer be recouered: noting the vanities of ſome, and honouring the virtues of other, loth to be maymed before he was hurte, and wiſhing to know the pikes ere hée would enter into quarrelles: hauing all ſuch fantaſies at his fingers endes, as were but follies to trouble his heade withall, and proouing by all examples, that the honour of the fielde, was of moſt fauour in the Courte, fæling his purſe light, and therefore his heart ſomewhat heaue, and yet remembring that fortune euer followed the forwarde minde, reſolued with him ſelfe to take ſuch a courſe for his content, that in his lyfe, or his death, ſhould make him Cæſar or no man. It fell out in the time of his Courting, the King was to make a fight at Sea with a great flæte, as hee had intelligence, nære approching the Coaſte of his Country, in which honorable pæce of ſeruice, happie was he that might firſt ſette foote aborde. Nowe began poore Frederigo his firſt miſery, for to goe to Sea as a common Souldier, was not aunſwerable to the reputation that he had in the Courte, and to take charge the firſt day, was to much raſhneſſe in diſcretion: furniſh a ſhippe and not diſfurniſh himſelfe, hæ coulde not, and to creepe into a baſe Cabin, he had as læue lie on the boords, but whatſoeuer might be wanting he wanted no courag, to go on with his conceite: and therefore was brought to his beſt wittes, to

haue his will brought to passe: to sende to his Father for greater mayntenaunce, might argue forgetfulnesse of his estate, and for his mother, there was no hope to haue any leaue to loke abroad: tossing therfore many imaginations in his head, now perswaded to the humor of peace, and by and by inflamed with the honour of war: one while beholding his Parents feare of his safetie, an other while conceiuing their comfort in hys hoped honour: nowe stooping to the bonde of nature, and by and by lifted vppe with the loue of virtue: now remembring that warre was sweet to them that neuer knewe it, and anon, thinking Armes the honour of all knoweledge: now loking vpon the terror of blood, and anon finding it the badge of honour: now drawn this way, an other while that, so that as a man in a maze, he knewe not what to resolue, till on the suddaine remembring that peace was the ende of warre: honour the ioye of peace, and valour the grounde of both: thought no better time then now, when such a quarrell was offered to the King, by desart of Chiualry, to gaine the loue of his Country.

For to tell his Mistris a Tale of the nine Muses, to breath his Horse for a breakfast in a morning, or to break a Bul-rushe on a buffe Jerkin, to daunce a galliard after dinner, and to leade a Maske after Supper, these are necessary to be knowne, vsed for a time, but soone to be forgotten, health in idlenesse was hard to be preserued without purging, and the Sea was the best phisicke for a body of good constitution: valour was the only meane to atchiue honor, and honour was the true ioy of loue: a knight of the Carpet, was the scoffe of a souldier, and the honour of the fielde was the glorie of the Courte: comparing thus the excellency of the one, with the vnworthines of the other, and finding his spirite not fitte for a close walke, determined with himselfe to lay aside al doubts of daungers, all crosses of comforts, or perswasions of pleasing humors, wherin either peace might haue honour, or warre not pre-

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ferment, and sette downe his rest vppon the resolution of the fielde. The Trumpet sounded in his eares, the armour glittered in his eyes, the sword promised victory, conquest assured honour, and in such a fame was the highest earthly felicity, in the course of warre what of worth was not apparant. Witte in the direction, discretion in gouernment, valour in action, eloquence in perswation, honour in conquest, patience in fortune, mercy in victory, ioye in tryumph, and fame in honour: Heere was no place for follye, nor time for idlenesse, wantons must learne to worke, and diligence haue his desart: heere was no tickling Musicke, nor trysling tales, no pampering of the flesh, nor dulling of the Spirite: heere was in some the honour of lyfe, the care of witte, the reward of industrie, the fruite of labour, the eye of honour and the heart of virtue. To conclude, heere was the path-way to perfection, the true way to diuine knowledge, the onelie way to honour, and the high way to heauen. These perswasions thus laide downe, this was the course that he would now take. Farewell Courting, to Sea, or to the fielde, nothing els woulde sinke into his minde.

But nowe, his determination being set downe what to doe, he wanted the meane howe to doe: money was not coyned, or at the least the Coyne was not in his possession, that should goe forewarde with his intent. Oh cruell fortune, that euer the want of cankered Mettall should be a hinderaunce to the action of any honourable minde. But how common a case it is in this age, with pittie to be looked vppon, I leaue to the sorrowe of younger Brothers to sette downe. Well, Imagine this was one misery to the minde of poore Frederigo, to see the hope of his honour hindred by the hardnesse of fortune: but to encrease his farther care, let me tell you in this time of his prouision for his determination, (though in a manner without good fortune in his seruice, halfe an vndooing to his estate) it fell out, that their liued in the Courte a younge Ladie, daugh-

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it: and to vse figures of eloquence, might argue a desire to learne to speake, but to auoide all inconueniences: I will leaue diuinitie to learned men, and since I am many waies bound vnto you, I will in this first seruice gratifie you, and hereafter in some better, honour you. And so remembring my duetie, I rest in the same affection. This xxv. of October: and alwaies.

Yours bounden to
commaund:

Nicholas Breton.

To the Gentlemen and Ladies, and those of the better sort of the worlde.

LAdies and Gentlemen, I am assured there will be a number of exceptions taken at my booke, for my sake: some that loue me not, wil laugh at it, & they are like to be deepe witted: they that wish me well, will fauour it, & they may hap to haue thanks if I heare it. Some will surelie vse it with as great despight as may be, nowe truelie they are somewhat worse then malicious, but God forgiue them: Wicked people, that wil finde faultes and mend none: but some good folkes will onely smile at a little follie, they shall haue better matter if I liue: some that like of nothing, I knowe will hardlie like, either of me or of my worke, God blesse mee out of theyr waie. Now if there be any so good a soule, as will thus farre fauour an vnfortunate creature, as to beare with all imperfections, and liue in hope of better humors: to them, I not onely commend the reading of this simple Historie, but doe promise, if I liue, some matter of better worth. Till when, leauing my booke to your fingers, & my better seruice to your fauours: I take my leaue from my Chamber in Holborne, this xxv. of October.

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For to tell his Mistris a Tale of the nine Muses, to breath his Horse for a breakfast in a morning, or to break a Bul-rushe on a buffe Jerkin, to daunce a galliard after dinner, and to leade a Maske after Supper, these are necessary to be knowne, vsed for a time, but soone to be forgotten, health in idlenesse was hard to be preserued without purging, and the Sea was the best phisicke for a body of good constitution: valour was the only meane to atchiue honor, and honour was the true ioy of loue: a knight of the Carpet, was the scoffe of a souldier, and the honour of the fielde was the glorie of the Courte: comparing thus the excellency of the one, with the vnworthines of the other, and finding his spirite not fitte for a close walke, determined with himselfe to lay aside al doubts of daungers, all crosses of comforts, or perswasions of pleasing humors, wherin either peace might haue honour, or warre not preferment

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But nowe, his determination being set downe what to doe, he wanted the meane howe to doe: money was not coyned, or at the least the Coyne was not in his possession, that should goe forewarde with his intent. Oh cruell fortune, that euer the want of cankered Mettall should be a hinderaunce to the action of any honourable minde. But how common a case it is in this age, with pittie to be looked vppon, I leaue to the sorrowe of younger Brothers to sette downe. Well, Imagine this was one misery to the minde of poore Frederigo, to see the hope of his honour hindred by the hardnesse of fortune: but to encrease his farther care, let me tell you in this time of his prouision for his determination, (though in a manner without good fortune in his seruice, halfe an vndooing to his estate) it fell out, that their liued in the Courte a younge Ladie, daugh-

ter vnto a Duke, which Lady was Sister to the King. This sweet Creature, no lesse rare in virtue, then singuler in beautie, carying her selfe euery way with such discreation, as had no touch of imperfection, who was no lesse honoured of many, then loued of all, but chiefly serued by Don Frederigo: whom though shée fauoured as much as with honour shée might, yet did she so gouerne her fancie, as gaue little lighte of her affection. But as the humor of loue is of that nature, that as neither flame out of the fyre, nor water out of the floodes, but will breake out in despite of all force, so that curst heart had long kept in, kindnesse burst out at last, but yet with such care in the course, as might giue commmendation in the procedinges. For thus it was.

Frederigo comming vp one day into the presence, saluted his Mistris with (as it seemed) a more troublesome countenaunce then before he was vsed to carry: the Ladie Paladina, (for so doth the story sette downe her name) not a little noting, that shee but a little lyked: and yet to cover the light of her knoweledge, with some darke cloude of speeche, with these wordes did entertayne him: Seruaunt (quoth shée) I maruell this cléere morning, you come with suche a darke countenaunce, are you angrye with your friendes? or haue you watched a quicke Corse? I hope you come not from Sea, the newes is colde of the fléete.

Mistris quoth he if the vnworthines of mine eye, could beholde the brightnesse of your beautie, without a cloude of such humiltie, as must yéelde seruice to your commaundement, I shoulde eyther not knowe the excellency of the Sunne, or forget the nature of the earth: my friendes are the onelie fansies of my Mistris fauours, which cannot displease me in nothinge, but the thought of mine owne vnworthinesse, the quicke Corse that I haue watched, is the dead hope of my fortune, and for the newes of the Fléete, it is in the heauens to determine. Yea but good Seruaunt quoth Paladina, in déede I see there is something troubleth

your

your head, which if it may beſeeme me to aſke, I pray thée tel me, if I may helpe it: Ether with ſhée ſmyled as though ſhée had béene merry with his gréefe. Miſtris quoth Frederigo, I find no ſuch trouble in my head, as the weakeneſſe of my witte, that I cannot deuiſe any meane to acquaint you with my duety: but if you knowe how my ſeruice may be worthy your commaundement, helpe forwardes my hope in the honour of your fauour.

In good earneſt Seruaunt quoth ſhée, they ſaye, for all my ieſting, there is great going to Sea, and me thinkes by your longe abſence from your frendes, you ſhoulde bee troubled with ſome gerat matters: but I pray you if it be ſo, let vs knowe when you take your leaue, that we may pray for your proſperitie, and beſtowe a fauour towardes your good fortune: for ſurelie ſince you haue béene my Seruaunt, if you will néedes to the Sea, you ſhall not denie to be my Souldier.

Nowe was Frederigo put to a harde puſh, either to denie his Miſtris that, he doubted ſhée knewe to well: or els reuealing his intent, incurre he knewe not what daunger, in his proceedinges. But hauing little tyme (for feare of ſuſpicion, to determine of an aunſwere: of the ſuddaine came forth with this aunſwere. Truely Miſtris, I thinke the king hath giuen order for the entertaynement of hys enemies: but for mine own determination, I wold be loth ſo farre to forget my ſelfe, as not to make the fauour of my miſtris, the toppe of my fortune: if I enter into armes, you ſhall haue the honour of the fight: and let me no longer liue a Souldier, then I will ioye in ſuch a Captayne. Gramerey good ſeruaunt quoth ſhée, but you aunſwer me with iffs and ands: I pray you tell me playnelie, are you going to Sea, or not?

In trueth Miſtris quoth hée, I woulde be gladde to ſée the ſeruice: but I doubt of my deſire, if I werre determined of the courſe. Oh Lord Seruaunt quoth Paladina, twere pitie that you ſhoulde be hindered, of your fortune: if you be

for-

so forward in the Action. As he was about to reply againe, came into the Presence, an Embassadour of a forraine Countrey: who beeing gone into a Gallery, wherein the King was walking, left such a trayne of gentlemen in the Presence, as with holding the eyes of the beholders, as well vppon theyr personages, as straunge kinde of attyre, brake of the talke betwixt Paladina and her Seruaunt. Who taking leaue of his Mistris, with such language as he had, entertayned a Gentleman of the trayne: but I will leaue him in his salutations and discourses with this straunger, & speake somewhat of the Lady Paladina. The Lady now by a little, perceiuing too much, that her Seruaunt was indeede minded to goe to Sea: make what shew soeuer he woulde or could to the contrarie. Ne lesse fearing his fortune abroade, then wishing his staie at home: & yet loth to be known to intermeddle in his course, louing him more deerely, then she was willing to let hym knowe: and yet willing that he should knowe that he was not a little in her fauour, fel thus to quarrell with her own conceite.

If I reueale my affection, I shal impeach my discretion: and if I hide my greife, howe shall I looke for comfort? To intreate his stay, were Childishe: and to wish I had when he is gone, were foolish. He cannot chose but thinke I fauour him, but yet not there fore presume that I loue hym: but if he doe what is he the better? To dishonour mee is farre from his virtue: and to enioy me, to high for his fortune. Inequallitie in parentage, maye bee a barre to our chiefe blessing: and yet honour is a freende, where virtue is her selfe. But to what ende is all this talke? this is nothing to his stay. The winde is in a good corner, and the Tyde will sone be turned. Time slipt is halfe lost: and Had I wist is a good olde Gentleman. Well, what shall I doe? Howe shall I deuise, to bringe this gere finelie about? that I may cause his stay, and he not knowe it: and he conceiue my loue and I not shewe it. Let me see, giue hym some

some prettie Ringe or Jewell for a fauour, with a posie written in it to that purpose. Oh simple inuention, when euery body may reade it, some man may finde it, and perhaps reueale it, and so I may repent it: no, that wyll I not, shall I write to him? that his absence may be more vnfortunate, then his fortune may be commodious: no, preferre an humor before an honor? that were contrary to my condition, and is not the honour of loue the heauen of this life: yes, where it is had as it woulde be, and kept as it should be: well, be what it will, or may be, thys shal be my deuise, fall out what will of the effect.

I knowe his Sister loues him deerely, and will not a little grieue at his departure, when she shal heare that he is going forth: and truely as well as I can, I will in couert make her know, as much as I think: that to goe out of the warme sunne into Gods-forbid, is not the prose of the best wit in a Country. At home he is assured of fauour, and abroade he can but hope of honor, and thys same hope is such an humor, as colens a world of people. Moreouer, hys Mother, if shee but heare of it, there will no meane be made to purchase her good will to it: and, how his Father will take it, is not yet knowne: but, I beleeue, not all of the best. Well, if shee say nothing to her brother for his stay, then will I goe another way to worke, I will write a Letter vnto him, as if it came from hys Mother, to charge him with no little lacke of loue, in so great forgetfulnes of duety, as to steale from all hys friends, to runne into the daunger of enemies, and (without good fortune) be not the least his owne foe: with many sorrowful perswasions of the prose of his loue in the alteration of his humor. And if neyther of these will serue the turne, then I will either finde him a friende or an enemie, for I will perswade my selfe with hym for his stay, and I hope with such reason, as he shall haue no will to refuse. But first I will write & try what my Letter will worke.

And so loth to lose time, when shee founde an humor

fitte for her purpose, gotte her into her Closet, where taking penne and yncke and paper, with a little studie shee wrote as followeth.

¶ To my best though vnwoorthy beloued sonne, Don Frederigo di terra nuoua at the Court, speede this.

I Merualle not a little my vnkinde boy, that thou canst be so careless of thy friendes, and forgetfull of thy selfe, as, in secrete vpon a suddaine to leaue thy Father sad, and thy mother sighing, to see the hope of their eyes comfort, become the ground of theyr harts sorrowe, what mad humor hath taken thee, or indiscreete counsaile hath perswaded thee, to forsake thy fauour in Court, thy possession at home, the commendation of the wise, the affection of the honourable, the seruice of the honest, and the loue of the vertuous, to begin a course that thou wert neuer acquainted with, and to put the aduenture of thy life betwixt a boorde and the water: how apparant is thy folly? or how canst thou any way excuse it? Canst thou swim? the Sea is broade, and a long way to the shore. Canst thou brooke the nature of a storme? I doubt it is too-much for thy fine stomacke. Hast thou euer yet beene wether-beaten? then wouldest thou the better beware of it. Oh no, nothing forsooth, but the hope of fortune, the desire of victory, and the name of honour, driues you from your selfe, to runne you know not whither, to rest you know not where, and finde you know not what. At Sea you may haue stormes, and of enemies you may haue blowes: whereof if any bee brought home, a rash part brings repentance, a fayre ende of your trauaile. No, sonne, if you loue your Mother, and will be rulde by your Father, take leaue, and haue loue, els, with hast, hazard what may hap: and vpon my blessing I charge you, to returne me present aunswer of your resolution: and thus for feare your determination be too farre

farre sette downe, I will be shorter then otherwise I would be: in hast God send good speede.

Your most louing Mother.

Thys Letter thus finished, folded, and sealed vp, in great secret she deliuers it to a fitte Messenger for the purpose, an olde youth in the Court, one that had beene Page to her Vncle, and now seruaunt to the King, was in a maner wholy at her commaundement: thys Gentleman at her entreaty tooke the Letter, and by a booted youth that had hys tale at his tongues end, caused it in this sort to be deliuered to the hands of Frederigo.

The Lady Paladina, hauing (as I sayd) deliuered the Letter vnto her trustie Seruaunt, goes vp into the Presence, to passe away her melancholie, with such companie as shee thought most aunswerable to her condition: but scarcely was she well sette downe, till she espied Florinda, the sister of Frederigo, entering into the Chamber, who in passing by her with due reuerence, she staied by ỹ hand with these words. Why how now Florinda? how happeneth it I cannot see you at my Chamber this many a day? Good Madam, quoth Florinda, an vnworthy seruant you may haue to trouble you when it please you: nay quoth she, I see I must excuse you, for your worke shewes, your absence from thys place, hath not beene idle els where: and ther-withall she tooke an earnest view of a most rarely wrought payre of cuffes, which shee so farre commended, as Florinda with a blushing thanks (as she sayde for her vnworthy fauour) wished that what she had wrought, or coulde any way deuise, might be worthy the presenting the honour of her patience. To be short, there passed such kindnes in their kindes, on both sides, as beeing matter of no great moment, it were but needlesse to deliuer it: sufficeth, that after many (betwixt idle and little better) speeches betwixt them, the Lady Paladina brake into these words.

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I pray thee Florinda hath Frederigo taken his leaue of thee? or when goes he? Alas Madam, quoth shee, with a countenaunce some-what apalled, take leaue? what to doe? truely, I know not, and whither he is going GOD knowes, and not I: but good Madame, if you know any thing, I pray you acquaint me with it, that if it be good, I may ioy in it, if otherwise, I may doo my best to preuent it. Paladina, noting her passion by her pale colour, feare not quoth she any harme, though thy brother be a little too hardy: truly, to be plaine, I heare he is going to Sea, and pittie it were to hinder a forwarde minde of an honourable fortune. Why forsooth, quoth shee, would you perswade him to Sea, that was neuer (I thinke) in a bigger vessell then a Ferry-boate. No truely, quoth Paladina, I perswade him not to any course: for I thinke his friends, had rather see him at home, then heare of him abroade. Why but forsooth, qd. Florinda, is it possible? that hee wyll so steale away, and make none of his friendes priuie to his parting? That quoth the Lady, I know not, but what I heare, I tolde you.

And with that word into the Presence comes Frederigo, whom the Lady Paladina no sooner saw, but she entertained with thys salutation: Seruaunt, in truth welcome home. Frederigo that had beene but a little from ỳ Court, attending the Embassadour home to his lodging, and from thence newly returned, meruailed not a little at thys her kinde of greeting: but yet as hys wit woulde serue him, gaue her on the suddaine this thankfull aunswere. To be wel-come home, ere I goe forth, wyll make me high mre home the sooner when I am gone. Indeede, quoth Paladina, your friends wyll wish you well where ere you goe, but, if you hurte your selfe, you will not alone be sorie for it.

Why, Madame quoth he, doe you knowe any that is acquainted with my course, and likes not well of the compasse? Alke your Sister, quoth the Ladie: Why how now Sister,

Sister, quoth Frederigo, wyll you be any hinderaunce to my happinesse: or discomfort to my conceit, if I determine of any course, to my eyther benefit or honor. I hope you haue heard of no ill, nor will be against of any good that will befall me. Truely brother, quoth Florinda, if I were as well acquainted with your course, as I woulde be glad of the alteration, you shoulde eyther heare mine aduise, or be perswaded by mine entreatie: but truely, if it bee as I heare, I can no lesse meruaile at your humor, then I wish you well purged of it.

Why how now sister, quoth Frederigo, wyll you be ministring of phisicke, before you know the cause of a dysease: and for my selfe I am not sicke, except it be with the sorow of your indiscretion. As how I pray you, quoth she: Why, quoth Frederigo, is it not an imperfection in wit, to dispose of matters aboue his reach: and how farre it is aboue your capacity, to gesse neere the nature of my humor, I am sorry you can not finde, before you take in hande to giue counsaile. Brother qd. Florinda, if chaunce were no more dangerous to you, then your checkes are hurtfull to me, I woulde no lesse toy in the heate of your happinesse, then I feare the cooling carde of your comfort. Alas quoth he, it dooth well inoede in a woman to be fearefull. And quoth she, in a man to be wise. Why quoth he, is there no wit but in keeping the head warme? Yes, quoth shee, in warme wether, it will do no hurte to take the ayre a little: but if there be no other ayre then the Sea, wyll helpe the heate of your melancholie, I would your friends were made acquainted with it, that they might the better prouide for your passage. You meane, quoth hee, they might make a stoppe to my way: that is, quoth she, as they list to thinke of the matter.

Now as they were thus crossing one another, in comes the youth in the bootes with the Letter, who with verie great reuerence deliuered it vnto Frederigo, who no sooner had receiued it, but he brake of the talke with his Si-

ſtres and hys ſiſter, and with as good maner as he might, withdrawing himſelfe frō company, out of the Preſence, gotte hym to his lodging, where no ſooner hee was entered, but with thanks to the meſſenger, and conſidering hys paynes, fell by himſelfe all alone, to the peruſing of the contents: which when he had once or twiſe well red ouer, and conſidered of euery point in the ſame, hee fell to theſe meditations.

Alas poore Frederigo, what ſhall nowe become of thee? thy Parents eyther to grow in diſlike of thy diſobedience, or the worlde by deſert condemne thee of little courage, will there euer fall a better time to make tryall of thy fortune, and wilt thou leaue that thou haſt, for the hope of a dangerous happines? Thy Father will ſure be againſt it, and it will kill thy Mother, if thou goe forwards with it: Oh too much loue to feede my ſpyrit to this height, and nowe too much feare to keepe me from my beſt hope. If I goe not, my friendes that I haue acquainted with my courſe, wyll ſmile at my ſimplicitie, my Miſtris will thinke me a cowarde, the worlde will thinke me a begger, and the heauens will ſurely hate my baſe humor. If I ſtay, neyghbours wyll perchance think me a good childe, my Parents gyue me theyr kinde bleſſing, and kinde harted people, will commend my ſtayed humor: but hee that is valiant, wyll thinke me a peſant, he that is honourable, will thinke me a baſe companion, and he that is wiſe, will recorde me for a good foole. No, I will not ſtay at home, that is once, I will not ſlyppe this good occaſion: if my Father fret, my Mother rage, my ſiſter frowne, and my friendes grow ſullaine, all is one, I will not breake my vowe, nor alter my purpoſe: to Sea I wyll, come of it what will, and if I cannot as I would, I will as I may, and ſo will I write. To be plaine, no longer dwelling vpon imaginations, her grew at laſt to this poynt: thus would hee aunſwere hys Mother.

¶ To

¶ To his moſt deere Mother.
M. B.

My deere Mother, with how great ſorrowe I haue receiued your ſharp Letter, I wil rather leaue to your kindnes to conſider, then to the trouble of your patience I wyll ſette downe: and hoping that you will impute the ſecrecie of my courſe to no lacke of loue, nor in the intent of honor, imagine imperfection of duety, I wyll entreate your fauour, to the aduauncement of mine vnworthineſſe, and beſeech your helpe in the accompliſhment of my hope. I know my father will take it vnkindly, in conſideration of his affection: but whē nothing is ſo farre gone, but may reſt at hys direction, I hope he will temper his diſpleaſure with ſuch patience, as, will rather promiſe me comfort thē diſcountenaunce. My good mother, if you will haue anie flowers of the roote, that you haue ſette in the Garden of your fauour: hedge it not about with the ſhadow of ſharp words, but let it haue the comfort of the ſun-ſhine of your kindnes. Truely, the difference of ſpyrits that I ſee heere in Court, betwixt the Sparrow of the houſe, & the Fawlcon of the field, hath ſo enflamed my hart with the deſire to looke abroade, that I ſhall haue no perfect health in minde tyll I haue ſome-what ſatiſfied my humor: and therefore as the entraunce into that courſe is moſt contentiue, where the aduenture is moſt honorable, ſo is the end moſt famous, where the returne is vertuous. Feare not then my ill fortune, where the quarrell is my Countries, nor diſſwade me from my courſe, time offering ſo good an occaſion: aſſuring your ſelfe alwaies, that where ſoeuer I become, I will no longer liue, then (nert heauen) in your loue, and ſo beſeeching your bleſſed hand to the furtherance of my forwarde hope, I humbly take my leaue in all loue and dutie.

Your obedient Sonne,

Frede: di terra nuoua.

The lyfe and fortune

Thys Letter made vp, in some haste he sendes presently away by a Page of hys to his Mother: after whose departure, he fell into this newe warre with his wits: Why? how now Fortune, hast thou offered me a course of honour, & dost thou crosse me ere I begin it? ah sweete Mother, let the teares of my true duetie, purchase one smyle of your assured fauour: lacke awhile the pleasure of your eyes, to be assured of the ioy of your hart, in slœpe are nothing seene but dreames, Youth is the man of trauaile, and Experience is the Schoole-maister of vnderstanding. The Scholler is fitte for his booke, the Courtier for hys Countrey, and the Souldier for his sword, but the trauaile is fitte for all: to speake Languages, to learne demeanures, and vse his armes: what shall I then do at home: reade of many noble deedes, and dœ nothing my selfe: a gentle studie for an idle heade, or vnable body: but fie on that slothfull humor. See the demeanures of forraine Nations, but come neere none of them my selfe: a iust note of a fole, that thinks no heauen to his Fathers Hall. Away with that childish conceit: heere of valure in warre, but keepe my selfe from the fight? a ful proofe of a coward, God blesse me from such a bondage: no, fathers care, Mothers loue, sisters kindnes, and friends counsaile all farewell, rather then the alteration of mine humor, whatsoeuer I haue writ of my duety.

But let me see, my Mistris sœmes nothing to fauour it, whatsoeuer vnderhand she may meane by it: but thys once is a sure rule, beauty neuer loued a Coward, nor vertue a pesant: and in a quarrell of honour is the tryall of Chiualrie. Because I want skill to leade, shall I want will to learne? a colde reason, and comes of a weake stomach, because I cannot clymbe the toppe, I must not looke into the Shyppe, an argument of little value, and in no vertue to be allowed: because a Canon is too heauie, I must not carrie a Caliuer: a good excuse to auoide shot, but a plaine proofe of no Souldiour: tush these are toyes. If I can

gouerne, I will: if not I will be gouerned. And if by my Parents displeasure, I be driuen to try my fortune: I wil remember the Vice, that with orderly wresting makes a hole in the Hogshead, and so puld at with haste, eyther breakes, or stickes fast. And so must I with order and experience, make a hole through many daungers: where with rashnesse, I may either be slaine, or kept fast among mine enimies. Well, much adoe I shall haue yet to bring ỳ world about, as I woulde haue it. For as the old saying is. In the nighte there is no playing at Cardes without a Candle, nor in the day, playing at Dice, without Coine: so there is no trauailing, without meate, nor warring without money. And alas, so little is my store, as can spare little from the stake: and yet what is, cannot be imployed to a better vse: and rather had I returne with honourable pouertie, then rest at home with dishonourable ritches. And if I die in the fight: in the ende of my fortune, is the beginning of my Fame.

Well, thus was he longe beating of this and that in his heade, till it happened, that a Gentleman, a friende of his, that was wont often to conuerse with him vppon diuerse matters of course: came to his Chamber, and there finding of him, put him out of his Muses, and ledde him into other humors. But I will leaue him a while with his frende, walking out, to take the Ayre in a fayre euening: and, I will tell you a little what ensued of his Letter.

Meanes was made, that it came to his mothers hands, with spéede enoughe conuenient to kéepe him at home, if his resolution had not bene such, as coulde no way be remoued: and thus it was. His Mother walking in a Parke, adioyning to a stately Lodge, that her Lorde Don Bernardo had there lately built: hauing in her company, besides her ordinary attendants, a Ladie or two of such sort, as she made worthy her fauor: fell to discoursing with them, of a dreame that she had the night before, wherwith she was much troubled. The discourse whereof, as the story sets it downe, was thus.

Me thought (quoth shee) this night I had many prettie fine birdes, that sunge so sweetly, as it did my heart good to heare them. Amonge the rest me thought I had a little Robin, the prettiest wretch that euer I sawe: and this birde was so tame and so louing, that he woulde sitte vpon my hande and singe: take bread out of my lappe, and loke me so prettily in the face: that me thought it did me good to loke vpon him. Nowe me thought I had in my Chamber, diuerse Canary Birdes, that in their kinde sang very swetely, and truely they were prettie soles: but Robin was the swete Birde, when they had all song their best. Nowe me thought the Sunne shined verie fayre, and the winde so calme, that it seemed a very swete euening: I would needes haue my Robin abroad with me, and forth I caried him, who me thought, made many a flighte from me, among the birdes of the wood, and returned againe as manerlie, as he had bene sente of an Errande: but at last me thought, he falls into the company of a straunge birde, much like vnto my Canary birde, & with that little thyng, away goes Robin ouer a great water, so farre, as I could no farther sette eye of him: when thinking to call for my birde as I was wonte to doe, Robin, Robin, in my call I awakte.

Scarse had she saide awakte, when Frederigo his Page comes to her with his Letter: when a little (it seemed) she was apalled at the sight of the Boy, and yet noting in him no vnchearefull countenaunce, asked him how his Master did. Who hauing aunswered to her content, both of his health and humble duetie to her Ladyship, somewhat pasting ouer her passion: fell to reading the contents of that she had receiued. Wherin when she had noted well the straunge forme of his writing, in sorrowing her sharpe words, that shee neuer writ: and reuealing his intent, that shee neuer knewe: eyther misdoubted the perfection of his Witte, or els mistrusted, more then shee coulde well tell howe to finde out. But whatsoeuer she doubted, nothinge

pleased

pleased her lesse, then his determination, nor did she wishe any thing so much, as the alteration of his humor: which, as shee coulde, she woulde perswade. If not (though with sorowe enough) she would take it with as much patience as she might: and therefore couering her conceite, with as much care as she could from the company, discoursed with the Ladies, of such maters as she thought meete: and making her walke somewhat shorter then shee had thought, with this Letter goes in to her Lorde: who at first, mervailing at his manner of writing, and then not well pleased with the concealing of his course: till (as by his Letter it semed) he had thought it otherwise reuealed. And yet remembring that honour is of the nature to leaue all thinges for his aduenture: finding that the knowledge of his loue, and the feare of his displeasure, might be some hinderaunce to his intente. And yet not willing to proue disobedient, in forgetfulnesse of duety: fell to temper choller with patience, loue with reason, and reason with suche kindnesse, as, that he woulde sende for him, and perswade him to that he thought most conuenient: which if it would not preuaile, then instruct him, in what hee thought most contentiue.

And therefore, when the Ladie still followed him with this speech. My Lord, will you let him go? He aunswered. I would not willingly. Why my Lord quoth shee, he dares not, if you forbid him. Yea but quoth he, that fearefull loue I like not: but he is your Darling, see what you can doe with him. My Lord quoth she, with mine owne perswasion, I will lay your commaundement on him. Do so quoth he: but let me knowe when, how and why you doe it? For tender loue is for Babes, and carefull loue for Children: and therefore, as I consider of his discreation, I will eyther giue my consent, or disalow of his course. But I pray you, be not you vnwise in your conceite, and you shall see all will be to our comforte: In hope whereof, I pray you sende for him. But in such sorte, and with such token of

your kindneſſe, that I may not haue his Spirite damped, with too much feare of our diſpleaſure.

With this aunſwere the Ladie not a little troubled, (knowing not what to thinke of, ſending for him with ſuch kindeneſſe, and then doubting conſente to his departure) preſentlie goes to the Page, and without writing any worde, with a purſe, with ſome fewe Crownes in it, and a prettie Jewell of Diamondes, deliuers him her Lordes will: that with all ſpéede he ſhoulde returne, and haſten his Maſter home: and ſo with a worde or two of ſpeciall kindeneſſe, touching the care of her ſonnes health. Hauing diſpatched away the Page, returneth all ſolitarie to her Chamber: where I will leaue her for a while, and returne to the Lady Paladina, Frederigo his miſtris.

She, now ſmiling at her owne conceit, in that ſhe had done, and yet ſomewhat ſolemne with ſuſpicion, that fortune would croſſe her deuiſe: with a merry goe lorry, ſends a Page of hers for Florinda, to méet her walking in a Parke néere adioyning to ỹ Court: whether, taking a young damſell onely to attend her, ſhe paſſeth forth all alone, as deſiring but little company: but little expecting any ſuch fortune, ſcarce ſhe had made a turne in a little path, but ſhee eſpied her Seruaunt Frederigo: whoe laying aſide all humors for the time, fell thus only to entertaine her.

Miſtris quoth hee, if the Heauens ſo farre fauour the earth, as to ſende Angels among meaner Creatures, how ſhoulde men beſt knowe them? that they may beware to offende them, learne to pleaſe them, and liue to ſerue them. Truely Seruaunt quoth ſhe, when you are better awake, I hope you will know the nature of a dreame: but, if deuils come in the ſhape of men, how ſhoulde the weaker ſorte of humaine Creatures kéepe themſelues ſafe, from the hurt of an ill Spirit? I hope miſtris quoth he, you are to well awake, for euer entering into ſuch a dreame. Yea but ſeruant quoth ſhée, this is nothing to your going to Sea: howe holdes your humor, in that daungerous

courſe

course: Truely Mistris quoth hee, me thinkes it is very good walking on the Land: for heere is no daunger, except of Sun-burning. Well, quoth shee, I am to bolde to be busie with your humors. Alas forsooth quoth he, you doe honour me in your fauours: but for my course, whatsoeuer it may be, it shall be but at your commaundement. Howe quoth shee, and how long? Both quoth he, as please you. Why then quoth she, I cõmaund you to loue your frends, and be no enemie to your selfe. Alas quoth he, Mistris to commaund me nothing els, is as good as no commaundement. Yes quoth she, sometime there are that will seeke their owne hurt, if they be not forbidden by their friendes. And yet quoth he, commonly nature is most friende to her selfe. Yea quoth shee, so reason be at her elbowe. In deede Mistris quoth he, a friends counsaile is necessary, somtime rather to be heard then followed. And I thinke quoth she, he is a needeless friend, that makes counsaile fruiteless. Sometime quoth he it makes against it selfe, and yet the friend not to be blamed. That is quoth she, as it is construed. And quoth he, without the construction, words may be mistaken. And quoth she, with misconstruing, good wordes are ill affected. That quoth he may be excused by weakenesse of witte. And quoth she, sometime abused by too much will: but are good wordes no more worth then the hearing? Yes quoth he if they be well applyed. But if they may be well applied quoth she, and be not? Then the faulty quoth he, must endure the disgrace: but if a greater commaund the lesse, witte must yelde to discreation. And yet quoth she, more hope of a fole, then of the selfe conceited. But quoth he, he that desires to learne, deserues to be instructed. Yea but (quoth she) who stops his eares, can heare but a little. Truely mistris quoth Frederigo, he that woulde be better conceyted of witte, then in the direction of your discreation: I wish him no greater crosse, then to want the comfort of your Counsaile.

As shee was about to giue him aunswere, turning her

heade aside, shée espied hard behinde her, Frederigo his sister, with the Page that she had sent for her: when breaking of her quipping with him, shée fell to this greeting with Florinda. In trueth thou art welcome, I thinke if I should neuer sende for thee, I should neuer se thee: I was halfe afraid, you had beene going to Sea with your brother héere. No forsooth Madam quoth Florinda, I am not yet so mad, nor I hope will he be so vnwise: I am perswaded, he doth but giue it out for a pollicie, to try how his friendes will take his departure. Well wench quoth shée, he knowes what is best for himselfe. Yea forsooth quoth she, but I doubt whether he be so happie, as to follow good Counsaile when he heares it.

Mistris (quoth Frederigo) now I sée my sister hath sette you vppon me, to stay her pleasure at home. No no quoth shee, if home be so homly, you shall do well to tooke abroad: but take héede of Had I wist, he hath beene an olde coosner of younge heades. Now, as they were thus in their That, in comes the Page from his mother, with a Letter of mumme budget: héere is a purse, and money, and a Jewell, your mother commends her to you, and your Father hath sent for you: no aunswere, nor excuse, but you must come away, and that with all spéede.

Frederigo, nowe receiuing no aunswere of his Letter, and therefore the more doubting the trueth of the other, that such displeasure was conceiued, as would not hastily be recouered: with these few wordes, shaking his head at his Sister, (as who shoulde say this is longe of you) thus tooke his leaue of his mistris. Sweete mistris, if either in any word, I haue moued your patience, or any déede of seruice, I may deserue your fauour, I beseech you be so perswaded of my duety, as may giue no doubt of my loyaltie: and for that I am sent for in this haste, vouchsafe your wish to my happinesse. Yes truely Seruaant quoth Paladina, I am not so angrie, but I will wish thée well howsoeuer the worlde goe, and if I can doe thee good, I will promise

mise thée no hurt: when with kissing her faire hande, leaning her with a little watrie eye of kindenesse, turned from him that he might not see it: a farwell to his Sister, away he goes to his mother. But I will leaue him vppon his Journey, and I will tell you a little of the Lady Paladina, and Florinda, and of their discourses in their walke.

Florinda quoth the Lady, I sent for thée, to talke with thée in secret of such a matter, as thy secret kindnesse, may much pleasure me in, and be nothing hurtfull to thy selfe: but the reuealing of it to the worlde, may very much hurt me, and be nothing to thy benefite. Madame quoth Florinda, if such be your fauourable opinion of my vnworthines, that you will commit to my duety, the secreat of your least conceit, as ingratitude is a villany: so were I most graceless, if I shoulde not be carefull of your commaundement, and as secret in your reposed trust. Florinda quoth the Lady, I will not flatter thée, let it suffice thée that I loue thée, and in loue I say this vnto thée: let the case be this, thy father loues thée dearely, and thou louest a friende no lesse, if it be knowne to thy father, he will surely be displeased, and if thou conceale it, thy friende may be taken from thée: in the one is the commendation of thy discretion, and in the other, the enioying of thy desire: in kéeping it to thy selfe, the worlde will commend thy modestie, and if thou make it knowne, he will surely aunswere thy loue: in the one thou hast little rest, and in the other, doubt of much disquiet. What wouldest thou doe? die with thy loue vnknowne, or liue with the disgrace of thy content?

Truely Madam quoth Florinda, the question is harde vppon the suddaine to aunswere: but yet quoth she, if it please you, I will deliuer my conceit. With all my heart quoth the Ladie, and I promise thée I will not giue a little regarde vnto it. Then Madame quoth Florinda, if I must haue either my fathers displeasure, or the losse of my loue: I must make a difference betweene that which may be recouered, and that which is past all hope of possession. Nature

ture will admitte no hatred betwixt the Father and the Childe, and time, loſing opportunitie, offers ſeldome like occaſion. If I preferre my common praiſe, before my priuate content: I may looke ouer the Mowne, but be neuer the nèerer the Sunne. The griefe is great in nature, to haue the frowne of a Father: but it is a death to loue, to lacke the beloued. Now, when a fathers loue wil not be loſt, and loue once loſt will neuer be had againe: when the one is but ſorrowe, and the other no leſſe then death, I thinke it better to proue my Fathers patience, then repent mine owne Childiſhneſſe: and in plaine tearmes, I would rather offend my Father, then looſe my loue.

Thou ſaieſt well Wench quoth ſhée, but I pray thée tell me one thing, wert thou neuer in loue thy ſelfe? Truely Madam quoth Florinda, I was neuer in hate with any, and if I ſay I haue loued, I hope it will not offende. Oh no Florinda quoth ſhe, I thinke there are none growne to our yeares, but are of a very weake conſtitution, either of body or witte that hath not felt ſome effecte of that Spirit. But if I ſhould tell thee of a friend of mine that is deepely in loue, and knowes not how to comfort her conceit, but is either ſure to diſpleaſe a greate friende, or hartily affraide to loſe the fruite of her affection: wilt thou at my requeſt, doe what thou canſt, in any honourable humor, to accompliſh the effecte?

Oh Madam quoth ſhee, what hart ſo hatefull, as that which fauours not loue, and the conceit honourable it is a bonde in conſcience: ſay therefore your minde, and be aſſured of my ſeruice. Yea, but if I ſhould tell thée I were in loue my ſelfe, wouldeſt thou not laugh at mee? Oh Madame quoth ſhee, let me not liue but to honour you. Then quoth Paladina, for feare in diſcourſing, of that I meane to impart vnto thee, that olde Prouerbes may fall out true, Woods haue eares, and ſtones can ſpeake, and Windes wyll whiſſle wonderous things: and to be plaine, two can keepe counſayle when the thyrd is away, I will walke in-

to

to my Chamber, where betwixt our selues wee will discourse of that which thou wilt little thinke to heare. And so I wyll leaue them for a while at theyr discourses in their Chamber, and returne againe to Don Frederigo and hys fortune.

Frederigo nowe after ordinary courses of reuerence and fauour, betwixt the Childe and the Parents, finding by some conference with his Father, that he was cosoned in hys conceite of that he thought he had receiued from his Mother, in secrete shewed them the Letter, full little mistrusting the wryter. Surely quoth Don Bernardo, it was a good wit that writ it: better quoth hée, then his that receiued it. I am sure quoth his Mother, they loued me, who soeuer they were, yea but quoth he, it was but a little loue to me, to make me afraide of your displeasure. That was quoth shee, as your conscience accused you of desert, and your friendes sometime do you more good then you are aware of. Truely forsoth quoth he, I feared your displeasure, for concealing my intent: but if my freendes will do me good and I not know of it, they must not take it ill, if I doe not thanke them for it.

Well Frederigo, quoth the olde man, I see thou art more bent to trauaile, then I feare wyll be for thy benefit, for onely shalt thou sée varieties, and in the end finde them all but vanities. God maist thou as well honour at home, as els where, friendes canst thou finde no better then thy approoued louing Parents, a better ayre canst thou not finde, at least more aunswerable to thyne owne nature: fauoured thou seest thou art of many fayre Ladies, beloued of many gallant Gentlemen, followed with a number that loue thee, and hated of none that euer knew thee: graced thou art in the Kings especiall regarde, and in the assured possibilitie of vnknowne aduauncement: what then doost thou neede? or wouldest thou haue? is thy spyrit quarelous, the effect wyll sure bee dangerous: dost thou thyrst for honour, quench it with vertue: dost thou hope for hea-

uen, make the path-way in peace: it is no leſſe olde then true, rowling ſtones gather no moſſe, nor running heads much vnderſtanding: home is home, be it neuer ſo homely: be not carried away with conceits, nor bewitched with vaine hopes: take heede of ſeeking wonders, and bee not wearie of welfare. Know thy Father hath ſeene ỹ world, is going from the world, and muſt leaue thee in the world: and therefore doth giue thee warning of the world.

Frederigo, hauing receiued theſe ſweete words of his Father, and yet reſting vpon the reſolution of hys humor, wyth humble duetie made him this aunſwer. Sir, if a man had not fiue ſences, hee might be pleaſed with foure, but each hauing his vſe, deſires likewiſe his honor: the eye delighteth in the choyſe of obiects: the eare in the variety of ſoundes: the tongue in the diuerſity of taſtes: the noſe in the change of ſweetes: and the hande in the contrarieties of natures. Now when the eye hath his pleaſure, the eare his delight, and the tongue his ioy, and ſo the reſt their deſires, the hart can be content, that all the ſences take their ſleepe: ſo had I ſeene, heard, taſted, felt, and ſo forth, as you haue, it may be, I ſhall ſay then perhaps as you do. But now to ſtande like an Image among men, to heare theyr voyces, and ſe the mouing of theyr lyppes, but vnderſtand none of theyr wordes, what a griefe is thys to a good minde I leaue to your owne to conſider: againe, the more I ſee of Gods workes, the more it moues me to giue him glory: and for friendes, as there is no compariſon in kindneſſe with the loue of a Father, ſo in greateſt neede, and leaſt hope is the beſt tryall of a friende: and for ayre, I muſt ſeaſon my body to abide what ayre it ſhal come into: Ladies fauours are prettie fanſies, Courtiers loue, kindneſſe of courſe: many followers no eaſe to the purſe, and no mans hate, prooues fewe mens loue: the Kings fauour too great a fortune to hold without deſert, and poſſibilities of aduauncement, are no poſſeſſions of enrichment. My neede is greater then I wyſh to haue known, but

but what I would haue, I leaue to the heauens fauour. A good quarrell is not vicious, and such an aduenture cannot be but vertuous, nor can the thyrst of honor be cooled with a base humor: and for the hope of heauen, it is after thys worlds warre, standing stones are good to treade on, and block-head wits are next neighbours to fooles. The Snayle hath a house, but it is subiect to many daungers, and what pleasure there is in it, let her tell when she lokes out of it.

Conceit of hope brings comfort, and wonders abroade are stories at home: the world that you haue seene I heare of, and the world that you must leaue, I may leaue before you, now what you warne me of it, I wyll looke to while I am in it. But Sir, I beseech you fauour me so farre, as rather aduertise me of such thinges, as I shall finde most needefull to haue care of in my trauaile, then trouble your selfe with further perswasions for the stay of me at home: the one wil surely be no lesse comfortable, then the other contrary.

Don Bernardo, finding that he should but labor to wash a Moore white, in disswading his sonne from his intent, or perswading him to other course, fell to these speeches with him. Frederigo, the loue I beare thee, with the care I haue of thee, hath made me alter mine humor in the deliuery of my minde: for whereas I thought onely to haue fauoured thee in thy aduauncement in Court, since I see the nature of thy spyrit, I will giue thee counsayle in thy trauaile: which, if thou wilt haue that care of, that I haue had proofe of, thou shalt find it more profitable then I haue founde it troublesome: and for that experience with instruction, is the best way to perfection, I wyll tell thee what I thinke good, and I am sure wyll do thee no harme. Frederigo with no little ioy hauing receiued this first hope of his Fathers fauour, touching his determination, with humble thanks intreated further his kindnesse in hys promised counsayle: which (to auoide tediousnesse in circum-

ſtaunces) was as followeth.

Frederigo, for that I ſee thou art bent to ſeeke the worlde that I haue ſeene, and that the experience of one, may be the guide of another, let mee deliuer thee a fewe words, that may not be hurtfull to remember. Say that honour is a high conceit, and fortune is euer freende to a forward minde: yet take hēede of raſhneſſe in reſolution, and cruelty in conqueſt, for the one is wilfull, and the other wicked: and as the firſt wants wit, the other ſhewes as little grace, whoſe fruites are penitence in reaſon, and torment in conſcience: but for that thou wilt but as it were ſtrike a blowe and away, and rather giue a proofe of thy valure, then make it thy daily exerciſe, (although it be the moſt honourable profeſſion) I will but tell thee in thy trauaile what thou art moſt to take care of. Money thou ſhalt haue ſufficient in thy purſe, I hope to defray the charges of thy trauaile, but let this be thy firſt leſſon keepe it well, and ſpende it warily, for it may bee as well a hinderraunce to thy iourney, as the beſt helpe in thy trauaile: for being knowne to many, you ſhall want no meane to ſpend, nor company to waſte it: where, beeing knowne but to your ſelfe, you ſhall beſt know how to beſtow it. Say you haue leaue to goe, you are not therefore aſſured of leaue to returne, and whether it be better to incur danger abroad, then liue in ſafetie at home, in the deſcription of peace, the queſtion is eaſily decided. I know it is a prouerbe in Italie, Che ſtá ſempre in caſa non troua che medeſima, hee that alwayes keepes home, findes nothing but the ſame: hee that liues in a Caue may goe dwell with a Mole, and dyſcourſe with the deade men: but yet better is a houſe of your owne, then a Chamber with a ſtranger, a knowne friende is better then an vnknowne enemie: and in myne opinion, as good be a Mole in the earth as a moate in the ſunne: to diſanimate thee in a courſe of honoure, were no part of a friende, and to ſette thee forward in a follie, no diſcretion in a Father, but knowing thy condition, and ſeeing

ing thy resolution, perswaded of thy discretion, I allowe of thy determination: but yet let me tell thee, when thou takest in hand thy trauaile, first consider of the charge, then of the time, and last of thy returne. If thou goe by sea, remember these principles, the winde is at no other call thē the heauens commandement, nor a shyppe to passe further then the winde will direct her: further, for her substaunce she is but a borde, subiect to many stormes, tost with euery billow, torne with euery tempest, the rocks are her ruine, and in the sande she sticketh: in a high winde shee beares small sayle, and in a calme shee makes no way: yet in a fayre wether she is a strong vessell, and with good heede not to be doubted, she is a bridge ouer the sea, and an enterraunce into many landes. If you furnish her at your owne charge, be carefull of a good Pilot, and set no children to the sterne, learne knowledge of the meanest, reward well the painfull, and let the idle feede of the fruite of their own sleepe: in fayre wether giue God thankes, and be not afraide of a foule day, but if need be lay to your fingers: for curtesie in maiestie, bindes affection in duetie: but if you goe but as a passenger, then looke to your cariage, & pay for your passage till you come on shore, thys is all I will trouble you with, but when you are once on lande, looke well to that I tell you: be not to solemne least you be suspected for a Spy, nor too full of myrth, least you be spyed for a sport maker: talke not of Religion for troubling of conscience, nor meddle with states for losing of libertie: if you see a Cardinall commaund a King, neuer tel the Pope of hys pryde, or an Abbot an Archbeeon, do not write it on the holy Rode: for a Fryer may be a false knaue, and yet the Church professe the trueth, and a Nunne an ace to blame, and yet the house holde of our Ladie: tush the blind eate many a flye, and they that will not see, were as good be without theyr eyes.

If you see a Spanyard proud, do not say so, or a Frenchman bloody, do not thinke so, if an Italian ielious, do not

wyte so, or a Dutch-man druncke, say it is not so, if a Christian a Turke, thou canst not helpe it if he be so, but take heede thou be not so. But yet take heede of the pryde of Spayne, the poyson of Italie, the murther of Fraunce, and the flemish humor: and for Turkish Christians I say no more, but take heede of a Wolfe in a Sheepes skynne, and thou shalt goe the safer by the hie-way: tell not thy minde to many men, be indebted to no man, be friende to fewe men, but curteous to all men: let thy witte bee thy friende, thy minde thy companion, thy soule thy care, and thy tongue thy seruaunt. Let vertue be thy life, valure thy loue, honor thy fame, and heauen thy felicitie. This is all tyll thy returne that I woulde wysh thee to regarde: but when thou art come home then take this further care: tell not of wonders, nor delight in trifles affect not in speeches, nor disguise thy selfe in graces. Let not the brauery of a forraine Court, disgrace the honor of thyne owne: be no reporter of newes, nor breeder of quarrels, no carrier of tales, nor maker of loue. Reuerence the aged, loue the godly, keepe company with the learned, and be not bolde with the youthfull.

Know the diuersitie of Countries, marke the varietie of times, note the difference of natures, and be not ignoraunt in the alteration of humors. Please God aboue all things, thy Prince next to God, then forgette not thy Parents, and remember thy friend: these Lessons wil I leaue thee, which beare well about thee, and so the Lorde of hyte be with thee. If I can perswade thy Mothers patience, I will be glad of it, if not hope the best, and what may be, shal be done in it: and for mine owne good will, though somewhat vnwilling in thys course, yet am I content to gyue it thee: and wherein I may further thy forward hope, be assured of my helping hand.

Frederigo nowe not a little comforted with thys kinde and graue counsayle of hys Father, sought all the meanes to entreate with his Mother for her good will to his depar-

ture:

ture: but I wyll leaue him for a while wyth his Parents, in such dyscourses as most beseemed his duetie, and return to the Lady Paladina, that I left with Florinda. Paladina now hauing so obscuredly, though kindly, dyscoursed with Florinda of her loue, that though shee might gesse at her fansie, yet could she not sette downe the place of her affection: after that she had with many thanks, giuen her leaue to depart home for a day or two, fell into these quarrels with her owne humors.

Ah Paladina, poore wretch, what will become of thee? was thy modestie the marke of thy wit? and thy discretion the toppe of thy commendation? and must thou nowe put both in aduenture, for the losse (perhaps of thy selfe) with thy loue? Florinda surely doth not vnderstand thee, or if she do shee wyll but laugh at thee. Frederigo will hardlie beleeue her, if she tell it, or little regarde it, if he beleeue it, at least I feare he will dissemble it if he mistrust it: and if I feede him with obscure fauours, may not he take as idle fansies: but his Father hath sent for him, hee may happen to stay him, and for hys Mother, I knowe assuredly shee will not let him goe: but, when he shall finde the deceit of hys opinion in the receite of my Letter, what will hee then thinke? that I am not my selfe, or that I meane to mocke hym? Alas, the one I confesse I am not, but the other truely I would not, for I am so much his, as I am nothing myne owne. If I looke, he is the obiect: if I speake, he is the subiect: if I think, he is the substance: and if I ioy, hee is the summe: but alas, he is not myne, more thē a friend of course, or a seruaunt of curtesie. Frederigo is too wise to be subiect to my will, he is too full of busines to attend to my idle humors: he hath too much minde of the warres to thinke of a wanton humor: surely, he will not be troubled with a trysling conceit. But what haue I sayde, is wisedome a wanton? and who sooner in loue: and is it a trifle in the minde, that may proue the treasure of the hart? is the humor idle that yeeldes the fruite of honor? and what

greater

greater conquest then in the fieldes of fansie? Oh loue, that I had neuer knowen thee, Frederigo that I had neuer seene thee. But shall I hate an heauenly humor? or bewaile the houre of my most happinesse? Why, it may be all will be as thou wouldest haue it: say hee loues thee, and dare not shew it, think he knowes thy loue, and cannot deserue it, be perswaded that he is wise, that can so finely conceale it: for in the managing of affection, is the true proofe of discretion. Alas poore wretch, thou hast many thoughts in thy heade, but little ease to thy hart: well, oh no, not wel, yet as well as it may, let it be, if I can I wyll be wise, I will see the worst of my feare, ere I beginne the best of my hope: I will see his returne, before I goe any further with my thoughts: and yet I loue him, and yet hee shall not know it, and yet he shall: for I shall loose him. Why? I neuer had him: what shall I then doubt? what not? why? why not? but how now Paladina? what is the matter? a little further, and a great deale too farre, melancholy may breede to a worse humor, feare not fortune, embrace vertue, and be assured of loue. And with that giuing a faynt hem, as though she would plucke vp her hart, falne down almost beneath her liuer, comes in a Lady of the Court, or two to visite her, with whom I will leaue her for a while, and returne againe to Frederigo.

Frederigo hauing nowe dwelt some fewe dayes with his father, and with much adoe hauing so perswaded with his mothers patience, as with his bounty and her blessing, he had leaue to take his honourable aduenture, with no little ioy returnes to the Court, where he ment to take his leaue, of such as best became his discretion, and so with all the speede he could to dispatch away to the Sea, and after, further on vppon his trauaile as he thought good. But lo now a new meserie, comming vp into the Presence, and and finding there his Mistris, nothing merry to see him so ioyful, (mistrusting the cause) & yet desiring nothing lesse, then for other cause to see him sorrowfull, with as much

care

care of her conceit as she could, hauing in humble manner discharged the mindefull duety of a Seruaunt, receiued of her these speeches.

Truelie Seruaunt, but that you might charge me with vnkindnes, I should thinke it needles to bid you welcome, for surely, I see you are well, and verie well, come home: I thinke trauailing be meruailous agreeable to your humor, or els the ayre that you haue beene in, hath meruaylously refreshed your spirits: surely I haue heard chaunge of ayre, doth much preserue the body in health, but for the minde, I neuer saw so manifest a token of it, as I doe now in you: why you went frō hence so full of melancholy, and as truly I doubted not perfect wel in health, and now your very countenance shewes, you haue recieued some extraordinary comfort: but, if you be not ielous of your humor, I pray you make your friendes acquainted with your fortune. Frederigo not a little meruailing at this her straung kinde of greeting, with a little troubled minde, made her this aunswere.

Mistris, I am so often acquainted with the crosses of fortune, and so seldome fauoured in the courses of honour, as if you did but a little dwell in my hart, you might easily know the passions of my minde: and thus farre with your fauour let me perswade you, that as the doubt of vnkindnes, is a death in conceit, so receite of the contrary, is a kinde of heauen to the heart: but for trauaile, truelie the way hath beene short, and the time not longe, as for my fortune, it is no more then I wil willingly impart to my friends, which, (to cleere my thought of all ielousie) I will make plaine vnto your Ladiship. It is no more nor other, then my Parents blessed fauour, to the helpe of my hoped fortune. Oh quoth Paladina, is that all: (when she thought it too much, by as much as it was to heare of,) nay then I cannot blame you: for there can be no greater ioy then friends constancie, and parents kindnes. Truelie Mistris quoth he, I must confesse my selfe happie in the one: but in

truth, I little trouble my care with the conceit of the other. Why quoth Paladina, is it not possible to finde a constaunt friend? Yes qd. Frederigo, for such as are in the heauens especial fauor. And qd. she, do you distrust your selfe in that Fayth? I dare not presume quoth he, of so high a felicitie. Why qd. she, is it so happie a thing to finde a friend? They know quoth he, that haue them. Yea but quoth she, if they haue them and doe not keepe them? Why then quoth hee, they are worthy to want them. But quoth she, if they haue them and knowe it not? They may haue quoth he, more sorrow in their losse, then ioy in their interest. But quoth she, how is the best proofe of a friende? By a fauour quoth Frederigo, if it be vndeserued. Why quoth Paladina, what vertue is in that fauour? It will quoth he, drawe affection in honour, and duety in seruice. And so leaue quoth Paladina. Neuer quoth Frederigo, if it grow once but neere to loue. Oh Lord (quoth she) and laught, is there such an humor? I thinke it be but a iest. It is of great antiquity then quoth he, for it hath continued many yeeres, in the discourses of many writers. But in deede Seruaunt quoth she, doe you thinke there is such a thing? and if you thinke so, I pray tell me your opinion of it. In trueth Mistris quoth he, I am verily perswaded, it is a secret Spyrite, that from a Ladies eyes descends into her Seruaunts heart, and there lyeth vnseene, till he be imployed in her seruice. Why then quoth she, it is a he Spirit. In deede Mistris quoth Frederigo, I neuer heard that Cupid was of the feminine gender, more then that he was his Mothers sonne. You say well quoth she, but I hope she taught him none of his vnhappines: but I will dispute no farther in Poetry with you, and therefore I pray you tell me but this: did you euer know any Ladie that caried loue in her eyes? Mistris quoth he, you haue a Glasse in your Chamber, will tell you her name, though I say nothing. Wel quoth she, and what man hath gotten him into his heart? Forsooth quoth Frederigo, he that rather attends his seruice, then will tell his

minde

minde. Yea but quoth shee, will not the man dessemble much, if he were trusted: No quoth he I dare bowe, he is as faithfull as affectionat. And both quoth she, I thinke as little, as may be. As much quoth he, as in possibility can be. Why then quoth she, tell him from me, when I see the Lady next, I will if I may know him, so farre fauour him as to acquaint her with hys affection, and procure him pitie, if no farther fortune. And Mistris quoth he, I dare vndertake for him, that but heauen, he will haue no heauen, but in the contemplation of her comfort. Why I hope (quoth she) he is no Astronomer. So farre quoth hee, as to make her the onely Starre of his compasse. Oh then quoth she belike he is a Sea man. I thinke quoth he, he feares no Sea in her seruice. Yea but quoth she, doth he thinke to see her there? I know quoth he, he meanes to honor her euery where. Well quoth she, youth I see hath humors, that will haue their course. And quoth he, loue hath a course that is neuer without his crosses. As she was againe thinking to reply, came a Messenger vnto her from the Quéne, that shee was presently to leaue the place: when of a suddaine from a sharpe wit, she gaue him this sweet farewell.

Seruaunt you are welcome, when you looke into the mans heart remember his Mistris eyes: and so away shee goes. When Frederigo was left with such a companie of Proclamations in his heade, that his wittes had euenough to doe, to keepe themselues in good temper: but lett me tell you, when his Mistris was thus gone, and hee left in these muses, imagine what a misery of minde hee was brought vnto: when he had purchased his Fathers fauour, obtayned his Mothers consent, and made no doubt, at lest, no great care of his sisters good will, to the issue of hys intent, beganne now to finde that his Mistris was not altogether pleased with his purpose, and therfore thought now he was to try the best of his wit, to bring his will to passe: which, with much trouble of minde, hee managed in this sorte.

Ah poore Frederigo, what streight art thou now driuen to? thy sorrow was not little for the feare of thy Parents displeasure, nor thy ioy lesse in the felicitie of their fauour. What a misery hast thou passed, and a further mischiefe art now fallen into? Thy Mistris, whose fauour was euer furthest from thy hope, now promising thee, though in clowdes, some little beame of thy comfort, thee, for whose sake, at least for feare of whose displeasure, thou didst halfe abandon the humor of courting, and first enter into thys conceit of trauaile, she become now a stay of thine intent, an alteration of thy determination, and by a conceite of comfort, the confusion of thy sences: doth she fansie thee, thou knowest it not: doth she loue thee, thou deseruest it not: dooth shee wish thy stay, thou findest it not. If shee doe affect thee for vertue, shee will wish thee honor: and if she see thine honour, shee will loue thy vertue: wisedome hath no wanton humor, and she beeing her selfe, what needeth more commendation?

If I stay, I may enioy her fauour, and lose the hope of other fortune: if I goe, I may by some fortune haue her fauour the better. Nature is pleased in the eye, reason in the minde, but vertue in them both, shee sees my disposition, her discretion I knowe, fortune is doubtfull, nothing earthly assured: if I displease her, whom shall I bee pleased in? The heauens will plague me for the abuse of loue, honour will hate mee for disloialty to beauty: youth wyll scorne me for forgetfulnes of wit, and age wil grieue at the follie of my youth. If I stay still, she will loue me, and a world laugh at me, if I goe, she wyll leaue me whosoeuer looke vpon me. Well, I will not seeme to knowe her humor, though by all meanes that I can, she shal know the honour I beare her. I will apparell my selfe in her colours, I wyll in my Helmet weare her fauour, in a Iewel I will weare her picture, I will serue none but her, I will refraine conference but with her, I will disobey her in nothing that may iustly offend, and be at her feete to do her

all

all the ſeruice that I can deuiſe her: and where ſoeuer be my courſe, my content ſhal be but with her: if I can, with fauour, I will vſe all the meanes I can to procure her conſent: if not, I wyll not know her minde to the croſſing of mine humor.

Well, thus as hee was at I will, and I will not, in came hys Siſter Florinda, who finding him in a melancholick Muſe, little knowing the occaſion, and thinking it rather to proceede of hys Parents diſpleaſure, then any other accident, fell to this ſalutation with him. Brother, you are welcome to the Court againe. I pray you howe do all our friends that you are ſo heauy? Siſter quoth he, gramercie for thy kindneſſe, our Parents are well, and our friendes I hope wyll be as well conceited, as we may be contented. Like enough Brother, quoth Florinda, but one mans will is not anothers wit, and for mine owne part, I had rather be ruled by my friends counſayle, then runne after mine owne humor. Thou ſaieſt well (quoth hee,) ſo friends be not wilful, it is good leaning to their wit. Yea, but quoth ſhe, Brother what mean you by theſe ſpeeches? I pray you quoth he, what meane you by the occaſion? I meane, qd. ſhe, hee that will leaue a fauour for a fortune, hath a wit ſhort of diſcretion. And quoth he, I thinke, hee that preſumes of that he knowes not, may looſe an honour for an humor. Yea but qd. ſhe, what is he worthie of, that will not ſee when hee may? Why quoth hee, to be blinde when he would ſee. Then qd. ſhe, wipe your eyes, and diſſemble not your ſence, for if you do, you may wiſh for ſpectacles when they will do you no good.

Let them ſeeke them quoth hee, that needes them, I care not for them: but I pray thee tell me, what doſt thou meane by theſe ſpeeches? I meane quoth ſhe, he that looſeth fauour on land, to ſeeke fortune at ſea, is like him that ſtared ſo long at a ſtarre, that he fell in a ditch. Yea, but quoth he, he that feedes vpon fanſie may be troubled in the diſgeſtion. And quoth ſhe, he that turnes his wit after for-

tune, may repent his will at his iourneies end. Well Sister quoth he, I roue at your good opinion, but I wyll not say what I thinke. And if you, quoth shee, runne away from your owne good, say what you list, you shal giue me leaue to thinke as I haue reason. When as shee was about to vse further words, came in a Gentlewoman, who hauing such message from her Lady, as called her wyth some haste away, left poore Frederigo in no little passionate humors: which, that he might ỹ better temper withall, when he had not much companie, after such curteous salutation to his friends, as best aunswered the place and persons, hee withdrewe himselfe closely out of the Court, and home he goes to his Chamber, where hee had not rested awhile, but he fell thus to reason with himselfe.

Frederigo, what wilt thou doe? leaue thy Mistris and loose thy loue, and then make no care of thy life, or let goe thy fortune, loose thine honour, & endanger thy life: loue without hys fruite, is like a picture without a face: but if the fruite be not gathered when it may be, the tree is faultlesse in her vertue, and yet if it grow hie, the gatherer must learne to climbe: but if climbing be forbidden, what then is to be doone? leaue it to the owner, oh base conceit, the harder gotten, the sweeter gayne: and shal he stoope to a thistle that may haue a looke of the Rose? Oh fole, is there any tree of true honour to the Laurell? and where is that carried? in the fielde. And when? in time of warre. To what end? to crowne the Conquerour: and shall I stay at home for a garland, that may haue a branch of such a tree? No, no, loue is a sweete life, but he that regards his reputation must second all things to his honour: so will I, if my Mistris be angry, it is but a passion, and patience will put it ouer: if she loue, it is not possible shee can alter her humor for a conceit of vnkindnes: if women smyle at my follie, I looke for no Sibils among them: if men wonder at mine humor, I leaue loue to their better gouernment. But what a lyfe is thys? as good want wit, as to haue it with

thys

thys fortune: and yet I thinke if wit looke wel about him he will finde little fortune to be thought vpon: but well, let fortune be what it can be, and the worlde do the heauens pleasure, if I liue I wyll to Sea, and see what physicke I can finde there to purge my heade of thys Morrisdaunce: and so calling in presently for one of hys people, take order with him for the speedy and carefull prouision of such things, as he should finde necessary for his purpose. Not to make long circumstaunces, the time grewe on, his haste not a little, hys feare of stay great: by many causes inconiecture, hauing made secrete meanes for his passage, playes a little the Courtier before his departure, bestowes some little charge on a Maske, whereof himselfe being the leader, takes his Mistris to the Measure, and there in her eare deliuers her hys hart: with all protestations of fidelitie, secrecie, constancie, honor, dutie, seruice, lim & lyfe, and all that loue could set downe. To be euer at her commaundement, wholy at her direction, and happy but in her seruice: with such a deale of adoe, that it was enough to winne a woman to beleeue a world ỹ was neuer thought. To be short, he intreated but the fauour as her souldiour to see the seruice, and whosoeuer was Generall, she would rest his commaunder.

Much adoe there was, ere good nature woulde learne to be wise, but when she sawe that she should but dishonor hym in hys stay, and he woulde honour her in his seruice, with a wring by the hande, and a pinch by the finger, as who should say, goe your way, yet I beshrewe your hart for your labour, she yeelded at last, as much as loue would giue her leaue, with the true care of honor, to commende him to his best course: when with a Maiden blush, & halfe a melancholicke passion, shee gaue him for his farewell a prettie Iewell, wherein was richly engrauen Venus blinded, and Cupid with hys hands bound behind him: shee with a crying countenaunce vsing these words, Vnbinde me Beautie: and she aunswering these words, Loue, I can

not

not see thee. Nowe when Frederigo had receiued this fauour, it was no time to dwell vppon further muses, but to make reddy for his matters, and be gone with all spæde: and therefore to ouerslip all idle causes of discourse, let it suffice, that his leaue taken of the king, and such other as in duety he was bounde, with a kinde farewell of the whole Court, commending his Sister to the kinde regard of hys Mistris, away goes he to sea, as fast as he could: and now beginnes no little misery. For after that hee had bæne a while tossed in a storme or two, in such sort, as with extremity of sickness, finding his body vnable to brooke the nature of the seas operation, made him inwardly wish he had rather bore a low sayle at land, then so high a sayle at sea: but alas, this sickness, the first seasoning of a souldier, was but an entraunce into the sorrow, that after fell vpon him: for now, lying as I sayd, beating among the billowes, now heere and now there, as it pleased the winde to bestow on him, till in the end, driuen out of the sight of all his cõpany, he was bayed into a poincte so full of Rockes and sandes, as, it was thousands to nothing that euer hee should gette out againe, without either wrack of Ship, or at least losse of goods, & no little daunger both of himselfe & all his people: lying I say, in this extremity, loking euery houre for a mischiefe, seeing no hope of comfort, but onely left to the heauens fauour, see what further misery fell vpon him.

By the vnlooked for helpe of heauenly powers, besides al expectation, with great care of the Pilot, & no lesse labours of the Mariners, being drouen out into the maine, there did he liue so long (neuer setting eye of his company) till he was enforced for want of victuale, to make towardes the nert shore he coulde descry, for the refreshing both of himselfe and his people. And now began he to thinke vpon the sweet banquets he had often made with his good friendes, the prodigal excesse that he was now plagued for: where he was wont to leade a measure, to most sweet Musicke, now what a sauntis was in his Shippe, with crying for meate,

curling

curſing theyr fortune, caſting theyr galles, and yeelding vp theyr Ghoſts, it was euen enough in conſcience to kyl the hart of a young Souldiour: but say thys was but the fortune of the warre, yet say it was the ill fortune of the war. But alas, what warre was thys, where he neuer came to fight: nay it was not his leaſt griefe to thinke of the ſeruice, and be ſo farre from the ſight of it: but let thys bee the entry, the houſe is like to proue no paradiſe, and therfore ſee what enſued.

Frederigo, now ſeeing a famine among his people, hys ſhyppe in daunger and himſelfe in diſtreſſe, though deſiring rather to die then to endure further torment of Fortune, was content at the requeſt of the Maiſter and other of the ſhyppe, to make towards the ſhore: where no ſooner he had put in, but he was preſently encountered with ſuch an vnciuill kinde of people, as with the little force of the weake people hee had, he was conſtrained with ſome loſſe of mē, (and ſome hurt to himſelfe) to get reliefe as the Countrey there bordering vpon the Coaſt woulde yeelde. Not a little was thys miſery to the minde of a ſweete nature, to remember the entire loue of hys Parents, the vnderſerued fauour of his Miſtris, hys grace in Court, and good regard in his Countrey: and nowe to ſee nothing almoſt but the heauens threatning his ruine, and the Sea ready to ſwallow him: hys people fewe, his force weake, his purſe bare, and no friend nere, to whom he could hope to be beholding: and when he thought vpon that word beholding, Lord how it did cut him at the hart, that hee who had alwaies at his owne pleaſure commaunded, muſt nowe be glad to ſue, and to whom he knew not, but glad to receiue, and vnable to requite.

Well, not to be tedious in preambles, let mee tell you what followed: after he had with much adoe, gotten ſuch refreſhing, as wyth the loue of theyr Captaine got them into ſome hart, out he puts to ſea againe, and finding the ſkye pretty cleere, though the winde ſomewhat high, hoy-

led layle, and to God and Fortune, did direct hys course, styll making as wel as he coulde, towards his frends that he put to Sea with: but farre enough from them to come neere them in hast, he resolued with patience to abide the heauens pleasure. When abyding many a bitter stourme, at last by great chaunce, he descryed a prettie vessell comming towards him, which vessell it seemed by her furred ribbes, had beene long abroade: thys shyppe he had no little desire to speake with, and finding his men of better spirits then bodies, desirous to be the first rather to die then faint, with hys sword in his hand gotte him vpon the hatches: and sending them a bullet or two in message of hys further meaning, brought her in, boorded her, and with little fight, gotte a prize of no small value: but among other things that he tooke into hys possession, that he most made account of, was a fine young Gentleman, that had stolne from hys friends, and was passing in that little vessell into a forraine Countrey where they were to arriue: the cause that ledde hym to which course, was the wonderful report that he had often heard, of the excellencie of a Woman, whose commendations, if I should duely sette downe, I must studie a new Philosophy for the vnknowne honor of Nature. Beauty beyond all that euer was heard of: wit, aboue all humane creatures that euer were spoke of: and for perfections of rare qualities, shee bare ỹ name of none such: no language that shee spake not: no vertue that she knew not: no honor that she shewed not: no discretion that she prooued not: shee was of the heauens beloued, and of the worlde admired: the spectacle of all Virgins: the miracle of all Women.

Now for the sight of such a wonder, and for the hoped fauour of such a fortune, as might eyther blesse him in her gracious countenaunce, or ende him, in the desert of the contrary, he had vndertaken this his first trauaile: wherein he tooke it no ill hap to fall into so honourable handes as this good Captaine and hys company. Well, many daies did

did these two Gentlemen dwel together in one ship, which Frederigo, furnishing with such victuall and munition as he wanted, and they might well spare, beeing nowe not farre from the Coast where they meant to goe on shore, keeping onely thys Gentleman and hys Page with hym a boorde, rather for company to discourse with, then for any conquest or gayne that he meant to make of his imprysonment, sent the Vessell away with all her people, vppon theyr faythfull vow, neuer to see thys youth Polidoro, (for so was hys name) want eyther coyne, honour or seruice, that they, or any of theyrs should euer be able to doe hym, in what place soeuer they should find him: for whose sake indeede, hee was the more willing to vse them wyth thys so honourable entreatie: but let them goe, see nowe howe Fortune soone followed againe poore Frederigo, with her intollerable furie.

After a fewe dayes and nights, which in most sweete, learned, and kinde discourses they had passed together, in such a bonde of loue, as nothing but lyfe should breake off, it fell out, that in a fayre morning, with a fresh gale of Winde, making towardes the Fleete that hee had left, though in little hope to come to the seruice, by a sore leake that grew in the shyppe so long vnseene, and in such place as could hardly be helped, he was forced with all speede to put into a creeke of an Ilande, and there to shyft for liuing till they could repayre theyr crased Barke. Now iudge of a new miserie, to the Sea he could not goe, the Lande hee knew not, hys victuals would soone scant: his friende hee had brought to an ill banquet, and himselfe to a worse bargaine, then he euer hoped to haue beene at the making of. And what remedy for all thys? alas, onely poore patience: but what was now to be done? eate with one hande and worke with another: one sleepe, another watch, stande vpon garde: the gate open, and the enemy at hand: heere was worke for a young witte: a bridle for a mad Colte: and a diet to bring downe a dainty stomacke. Now a cup

of water was comfortable, and an Orenge that serued for sauce at lande, was no meane dysh at Sea: bread was gyuen by hys weight, and water by hys measure: fish? mary, since the miracle, neuer so fewe fedde so many people: thys (I take it) was no little misery, when some dyed for meate, other drooped with sorrow, a few of good spyrite, liued to looke vpon theyr Captaine.

But, to increase yet his further care, let mee tell you what followed on: hauing with long toyle: great labour, and no lesse patience, with much adoe, so dressed hys shyp, as once more he would try the ende of hys Sea fortune, to how cruelly she dealt with him. When hee had endured many a storme, with many a hungry dinner, and no supper at all: looking vpon a number of daungers, and seeing almost no hope of comfort, lying so long till his victuall began to putrifie, and his people as fast to perrish: it was his happe to descry a shyppe making towards him with al the speede she might: but alas, little it fell to his comfort, to come aboorde on her. For, when with many a dangerous shot he was forced to stricke sayle, and yeeld to the mercie or crueltie of an vnknown enemy: nothing did there want that might gyue him sorrow, more then nature coulde endure.

For first he must yeelde, and that was one miserie to a minde of honour: then to an enemy, that was a further griefe, when subiection, euen to a friende, kyls the hart of an high humor: and how must he yeelde? hys shyppe, his goods, his people, his liberty, his life, vnto the handes of a Tyrant, who would looke on him but in scorne, vse him more like a dogge then a Christian: speake to him, but in choller: and then with such cutting words of discourtesie, that gall coulde be no more bitter to the tongue, then thys disgrace was to hys hart. Bounde he was in chaines, placed in a Galley for a drudging slaue that should labour for hys lyuing: feede vpon hungry fare, glad when he could gette it, and earne it ere hee had it: thinke nowe whither hys

hys minde were not full fraught with miseries, and yet not so to leaue, see one sorrow aboue all the rest, his friend Polidoro, to whom hee had thought to haue doone much honor, now by hys mis-fortune to be brought vnto a world of misery: to worke for his lyuing, to tugge at an Oare, and subiect to the whyp in euery chollerick humor. Nowe in the midst of all these miseries, what was left to comfort hys most oppressed hart: onely poore patience the sweete spryt of vertue, that euer in all daungers did defende hym from despayre.

But alas, poore Frederigo, now with his deere friend, (whom he had in loue named hys brother) sitting with him vpon the shore, some-what neere vnto the Sea, espyed cast vppe vppon a tufte of Reedes and sedges, a Lute case as it should seeme, newly drouen thither by the tyde, much adoe he had ere he could come by it, but when with some danger of life, with the leaue of the Maister of the Galley, walking vppon the shore, and ouerlooking his labouring prysoners, he swam to the little tufte where this Lute case was throwne, and brought it with much adoe to the shore: and presented it to him, in hope of some either bountiful, or pittifull reward for hys labour, which like a dog shewing his deuillish nature, he snatcht it out of his hande, giuing a small peece of theyr cankered coyne, and as it were of almes, commaunding him a peece of better bread then hee was ordinarily vsed vnto: and then breaking open the Lute, founde it an olde thing, the backe in many peeces newe sette together, but it should seeme of some worth, for that the case was lyned with Veluet. Thys Lute, when he had well looked vpon, hee made a seruaunt of his aske among his slaues the prysoners, which of them could say any thing to that instrument: who bringing it to the hands of Frederigo, heard him, after that he had awhile dryed it against the Sunne, with certaine strings kept in a lyttle vron bore within the case, which hee toke out and stroong the Lute, makes such a peece of Musicque, as from such

labouring fingers was neuer lookt for, nor almost heard of. The Maister of the Galley, not a little pleased with this fine and sweete qualitie of his prisoner, was presently determined to sende him for a present, to a Bassa of the great Turke: but more esteeming money, then either the man or his vertue, carrying him with his Brother Polidoro, (a man most exquisite in the arte of painting, by which, hee gotte no little reliefe in the Countrey,) when with leaue of the Captaine, hee had leysure to seeke the fruite of his labour: wherewith Frederigo, was not a little refreshed.

But to goe on with my discourse, these two brethren, in loue by the Law of true friendshyp, did the Maister of the Galley, carry with him one day to the Cittie next adioyning: where, in an Inne, meaning to giue a farewel to a friend of his, a rich Merchant of Arabia, vpon ỳ poynt of departure with the next tyde, finding him there among a number of other his friendes, hee presents him with the offer of these two slaues: (at least as hee had made them,) causing them there to shew the qualities that he had commended in them: which done, the Merchaunt regarding nothing more then pleasure, especially if he might come by it good cheape, with much adoe agreed with him for them, payed his price, and carried them away with him.

Nowe was there yet the worlde turned from badde to a little worse, for, where before, though their very soules were tormented, with the cruelty, that woulde not suffer them without correction, to call vpon the name of Christ their Sauiour: yet might they sometime among their fellow prisoners, learne comfort each of other: and nowe, their fare was little amended, and their labour not so eased, but they were glad of rest when they could get it: and for company, they were such people, as ouer and besides their blacke faces, (which were for the time, like the visions of hellish dreames vnto them,) their feeding was so beastly, their meate so filthy, and their demeanure so farre

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from all good mancy, as, imagine, how neere hell was the nature of such a sorrow. Well, to goe on, in thys shyppe they lyued looking vpon these deuils, feeding among these dogges, and making musicke to these monstrous people, tyll it chaunced that a man of warre a Portugall, hauing lyen at Sea for the space of two moneths, with a shyp and two Pinaces, onely to expect the comming of such a company, made to him, and after a little fight borded him, and carried him away. But in regard of his happines to buy those Christians, and such good vsage of them, as themselues had reported, though in fight hee had lost some of his chiefe men, yet did he so honourably vse both the Moore and his company, as but that he wanted his commaundement, till he came on land he little found his losse: but let me cease further to speake of him, and goe on with Frederigo his fortune.

Thys Portugall now perswaded he knew, or at least had seene him before, vpon the aunswer of a fewe questions propounded vnto him, with a great discourse of the fortune of his brother Polidoro, he commaunded presently the Captaine of one of his Pinaces, with sufficient victual and munition, furnisht to goe through with his voyage, to take thys young Gentleman Polidoro, and with such sum of crownes as hee frankly gaue him, to bring him to the Land of his so honoured Lady: not long was thys matter in discourſing, the Captaine sone fulfilled his commaundement, made ready his Cabine, and toke him into hys Pinace: but, to see the teares of true loue that fell at the sorrow of their parting, but that men are no babes, would surely haue condemned them of much folishnes. When after they had dined at the Portugals owne table, with many prettie discourses of their most cruell fortunes, Frederigo toke his Lute, and with a sigh for euery rest, playd a most doleful peece of musicke: to which note, his Brother Polidoro sung thys dittie, of his owne present inuention.

Reason

REason of late by witte begat a child,
And as I reede, did christen it Conceit:
At whose faire byrth, it seemde that Fortune smild,
To promise hope in top of honours height.

Good-nature was the Nurse that brought it vp,
Who gaue it milke but of a Maidens loue:
On which it fedde, and founde so sweete a sup,
As if it could no other Nectar proue.

But yeeres grew on, the babe must change his meate,
The Nurse had noynted all her brest with Rue:
Whose bitter taste did make it leaue the teate,
Whose inward sweete, the Infant little knue.

When Reason wept, although Good-nature smild:
To see how Wit, was forst to weane her child.

The song ended, and many arguments helde on both sides, vpon the loue of a friend, whither it were more apparant, in wishing a presence, or admitting an absence, among which, one was this, that if a friende were another my selfe, and so great were my affection, that the eye of his presence, were the ioy of my hart, how much did I loue my friend, when I would yeeld to his conceit, though it were the losse of mine owne comfort. Presence was the proofe of kindnes, and absence the tryall of constancie, the hart in presence, was beholding to the eye, in absence, the eye must come to the heart for his comfort. Fayre wether after a storme: Summer after Winter: ioy after sorrows: and friends meeting after parting, were the sweetest flowers in the Garden of true affection.

Well, let me not dwell too much vpon the contrariety of opinions, when presence made no doubt of constancie, nor absence gaue but sorrow, if not vnkindnes, when the hope

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was best in temper: if all the members were satisfied in theyr wants, and pleased in their properties, when the eye was not blamed for sight, nor the hart for sence: faire weather, summer, ioy and loue, were the onely nourishments of the humor of good nature, where good will in his conceit, could neuer be wearie of his comfort.

But let me leaue to tell you further, what kinde crosses were betwixt them: let it suffize, that when Frederigo considered, that going with him he could neuer see the Ladie, whose sight he so much desired, and for whose sake, hee vndertooke his first aduenture, and by the helpe of the heauens, he might finde the meanes to see his friend, when hee had atchiued his desire, was content with much adoe, rather to wish him all welfare, then to giue him his farewell. But let me leaue Polidoro, nowe in his Pinnace, vnder sayle, towardes the hope of his desire: and let me tell you on still, of the miserable estate of Frederigo.

Frederigo now resting with this Captaine, who (rather to gayne himselfe honour in forraine Countries then commendations at home) had with farre greater bounty dispatched away Polidoro, then with fauour, he kept Frederigo a boorde: one day among other, finding him very pleasantly disposed after so many stormes of ill fortune, and yet mingling his mirth with such modestie, as might be alowed for no light humor, to driue him first into a dumpe, and then keepe him in a sorrowe: of the suddaine, a great deale to some, hauing beene but a few daies in his keeping, came to him with these wordes.

Frederigo, I am glad to see you so merry, after so long sorrowes, as you haue most miraculously endured: but, let it nothing appall you, that I shall for a trueth deliuer vnto you. Shortly I meane with as much speede as I may, bee at home, where you shall finde to your great discomfort, your Parents both dead: your Brethren and sister maried, who liue truely, no lesse richly, then well regarded, I pray God they proue so kinde, as your Father left them in

charge to you, and your mothers blessing if you can get it, will be worth the hauing. Frederigo when after many a sounde, with the extremity of sorrow, faintly recouered, he had heard this dolefull discourse, seeing not his regarde so great, as either aunswered his spirit, or might perswad his hope to any hapines, with many a deadly sigh, & (in secret) bitter teares, sorrowing day and night, one euening sitting alone aboue the hatches, thinking vppon his friende Polidoro, remembring his deere Parents, not forgetting his sweet Mistris, and thinking vppon the Kings fauour, vpon a suddaine, sancke downe, and lying so in a traunce, more bemoned by the Souldiours, and pitied by the very Mores, then comforted by the Captaine: when least life was expected, he by a little and little reuiued, and mastring sorrow with patience, made himself as merry as he could: when noting well the imperious humor of the Captaine, who not looking for any great amends, shewed him as little fauour as he might: a day or two before hee arriued in his owne Countrey, beeing demaunded of the Captaine, if he woulde for entertainment do him that duety, that became the nature of a seruant, with many nipping speeches, touching the hardnes of the worlde, to the vnfortunate mindes: hee made him no aunswere, but that, as he was bound vnto his fauour, he would not be vnthankful for his friendshippe: and the same euening, that he was to come on shore, to make him acquainted with his conceit, as well to touch the nature of his pride, as to shew the honour of his owne spirit, at his request and in a manner commaundement to haue a little Musicque, toke his Lute, and sang him this dittie following.

WIshes farewell, your worlde is at an ende:
The Sunne is downe, and it will needes be night.
Fortune hath sworne, she is not vertues friend:
Coine is the Lampe, that giues the cleerest light.

Time

Time toyles in vaine, where labour hath no fruite:
And Reason runnes, to ruine with vnrest:
Conceit of seruice, proues to colde a sute:
He onely grac't, that hath the golden Chest.

Humors are made, the masters of the minde:
And conscience proues, a kinde of poore conceit,
Once got before, will neuer looke behinde:
When patience witte, doth proude selfe-will awaite.

In whose despight, this touch hath honour taught:
Rather to starue, then stoope to such a thought.

This song ended, and the Lute laide away, the Captaine giuing good eare to the Dittie, and not a little noting the effect, with a fresh gale of winde, put into the haven, and no sooner came on shore, then with a scarce pleased countenaunce, and the gifte of a very sewe Crownes, leauing Frederigo to his fortune, went about the fruite of his owne. But I will leaue him in his busines, and I will tell on of Frederigo.

Now was poore Frederigo, wrapt in a thousand cares, and so long out of one miserie into an other, carying his vnquiet thoughtes, that as a man amazed, hee knewe not what to doe with himselfe. But after long musing, sitting downe vpon a bancke side neere vnto a Wood, farre from people: and yet neere vnto a way, that ledde to a lodge, of his deere deceased Parentes: fell thus to talke with himselfe.

Most wretched Frederigo, what heauenly fate, hast thou so heinously offended, that no good fortune will befall thee: but is ther any fortune? or is this her nature? or am I only so far in her displeasure? what may be the cause of this my continuing miseries? But what doth it auaile thee, to make mone to the ayre? Will the wind, be so friendly as to alter

the nature of thy fortune? Will the birdes sing of thy sorrowe, and the heauens pittie their notes? alas these are vaine imaginations. And then, what wilt thou doe? Light is thy purse, and therefore heauy thy heart. The worlde miserable, and thy way, thou knowest not howe longe. What wilt thou doe? Goe to thy friends, where will they be in thine aduersity? To thy kinne? Oh they are commonly vnkinde: and in this case, I feare will be little comfortable. Borrow, thou canst not with conscience, not knowing howe to pay againe. Begging is a shamefull course: and to steale is no little touch of dishonour. Wilt thou labour? thou canst not endure it. Wilt thou hope of bounty? it is gone: thou shalt neuer finde it. Alas, say thy Brethren will be kinde, then must thou be thankfull, and how many must thou bow vnto? whome in thy time thou hast fauoured. Thy brethren are maried, and thou must looke into this lesson, that the Ladies humor must be pleased, least the Lord be offended: and thou must serue both, if thou wilt haue fauour of one. Thy Sister is couetous and her husband thou knowest not: and what a misery will it be, to stoope to thine owne blode? whoe beholding thy pouertie, wil little ioy in thy presence: when if they relieue thée, it will be rather in pittie, then loue: and with what lessons of repentaunce thou shalt finde reliefe, let it rather kill thee to consider, then content thée to receiue. Now for thy mistris, if she continue her loue, it wil be a great crosse to her comfort, to behold thée in this heauie taking: if shee haue altered her affection, it will but encrease thy sorrow, to consider it. For ỳ king, it may be he wil not looke at thée, or at least not so regarde thée, but that the kinde of hys countenaunce will rather kill then comfort thee: and till thy fortune amende, the Court will be no place for thee: Alas, then what wilt thou doe? try thy fortune in an other course. Neere dwelleth in this Forrest an olde friende of my fathers, and no lesse louing to my selfe, of him will I seeke fauour, to him will I reueale my fortune, and to him

will

will I offer my seruice: he is not superstitious, & being religious, he cannot be but vertuous, wise, the world knows hym, kinde I haue founde him, and honourable I hope to proue him, Secrezy, is the honour of bounty, and so if I may finde his fauour, he shall willingly command my seruice. Long was he thus debating with himselfe, what to doe, till he was at last resolued thus he would doe: and so rising from the bancke whereas he sate, with a heart full of heauinesse, towards this house he takes his way. Now doe but a little thinke vppon the miseries, of this poore afflicted Frederigo: his parents dead, his wealth wasted, his body wounded, his brother lost, his state poore, his friends he feared vnkind, his kinne vnfriendly, his mistris he durst not see, the King he would not se, and wher he liued to command, he must now learne to serue. Imagine these were miseries enough to kill the heart of one Creature: but alas I haue shewed you but a fewe roomes, in respect of the whole house: and therefore let me tell you further, of the cruell tiranny of his fortune.

When he had wery, come neere vnto a Parke pale, not far frō the dwelling house, of this honourable gentleman, who (as the story sets him down) had to name: Don Piero, di Castilia, for that his auncetours were saide to be of Spaine: when, hee was so neere his house, that he might beholde the smoke of a Chimney, in a chamber where hee had beene many a time, most honourably lodged: tearing his heart with the torments of minde, to thinke now what course hee was to take, espied the knight himselfe with a Page, all alone within his Parke walking, and comming towardes him: to whom, with embased eyes, and melancholy thoughts, he came so neere, as thinking to salute him, & yet so full of sorrow, as, that for ỹ time he could not speak passing by him: the knight, somewhat earnestly beholding hym, called him suddainly by his name: Don Frederigo? or am I deceiued. Who with a troubled mind made him this setled aunswere. Neuer deceiued in Don Frederigo: when,

with an vnlooked,and altogether vnhoped for kindnes,the Knight came to him, and with these wordes of true honor did embrace him. Don Frederigo, whom I haue euer loued,long looked after, and so long time coulde not heare of: most vnfeignedly welcome. Frederigo,in a suddaine passion,suppriſed with this rare peece of friendſhip,after ỹ recouery of a little traunce,with humble thanks,receiued these wordes of further comfort.

Frederigo,let not thy friends death,which I feare thou haſt hearde: the vnkindneſſe of thy kin, that I doubt thou wilt finde: nor the miſeries whatſoeuer, thou haſte either paſſed or doſt endure: further appall thy ſpirite, then may be recouered by thy friendes comfort. Thou knoweſt how deere I helde thy Parents, and what charge I receiued in care of thy wel doing, I had rather in action make known by loue, then in wordes, but wery thy hearing: and with theſe wordes,ſending in his Page,for a rich ſute of apparel, that he had made to ſend to a Son of his at Court, walked with him in the Parke, diſcourſing of his croſſe fortune. But when the Boy was returned, and he ſo well apparelled,in he led him to hys houſe: where in moſt good ſort, he was of all moſt louingly entertained.

But liuing a fewe daies with this Knight, whoe onely for his conſcience was forbidden the Court, obſeruing to theyr great ioy,the howres of diuine ſeruice,in ſuch manner and forme,as agreed, with the true grounde of Religion: it fell out, that there happened to be in the houſe,in this time of his entertainment, a companion of ſuch condicion, as was fitte for no good company. This Jacke, in ſtæde of a Gentleman,yet ſet out in apparell lyke a man of ſome honeſt preſence, and regarded in that place, for a Cardinalles ſake, whome hee followed in Courte, onely to make him merry, with many an other mans ſorrowe: thys Paraſite,for ſo indeede I rightly tearme him, noting Frederigo his entertainment, his obſeruation of ſeruice, his opinion in Religion, and his long ſtaying there before

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he came to the Court, (although he little knewe the meane nor cause of his comming thether) thinking to be welcome with some villainous inuention: with a shew of kindnesse to all the company, and many thankes for his great entertaynment, takes his leaue after Supper, to bee gone the nexte morning: when very early, with vnhappy shaping breaking of hys necke, passed away to the Court, where finding the top of his fauour, the great honour, that would giue too much eare to his too little honesty: for his first newes, tels him of the arriuall of Frederigo, howe he was altered in his Religion, what he noted in his conuersatiõ, how braue he was in his apparell, how kindly he was entertained, how long he had bëene there, how little desire he saw in him, to come any further, and what doubt were to bee had of him, if he shoulde come of the suddaine to the Court.

The Cardinall, no friende to Don Perio, nor greatly inloue with Don Bernardo, Frederigo his Father, makes the King so acquainted with this discourse, as with his present warrant, there was dispatched a certaine Messenger to the house of Don Perio, with all spëede to bring vp both him, and his new guest: to be short, haste was made, the message dispatched, Don Perio, with Frederigo, to the great amasing, and no little sorrow of the whole house and Countrey, there abouts, were brought vppe, and ere they came to the Court, commaunded to close prison: where after thy had rested a day or two, one seperated so far from the other, as that nothing but hearts, that mëte inuisible came together: in a morning about nine or ten of the clocke, this Cardinall, (as the story calleth him) Christophero di mala mente, so named by hys house, (a name most agreeing to his own nature) with the rest of other, then sitting in the Senat house, sent for Don Perio to come before them: who, truely hauing aunswered to such questions as he was propounded, was founde so cleere in all causes of offence, more then for suffering him to

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vse such order of diuine seruice in his house, as was by the Kings pleasure and the Law of the Countrey, with some ordinary words of displeasure, and warning from the like offence, was fined in a summe of money, and so within a little time discharged.

But nowe againe, thinke how Fortune begun a new course of crosses with poore Frederigo, the man, that in kindnes receiued him, in honour relieued him, and in loue so entertained him, as he was for euer bound to loue him, now to be a cause of his trouble, how much, he knew not, but more then he coulde liue without many deathes to beehold. Well, as it was, he must abyde it, doe how he could to digest it: but Don Piero discharged, and so, as at hys departure, he durst not giue him a looke of his loue: poore Frederigo, was sent for afore the Senate, where hee was vpon his othe examined, and by the same coniured to make true aunswere in his conscience, to euery point of his accusation: which, in euery part so performed, as there was no fault found in him, but that, which indede was faultles: onely for hys Religions sake, he was again sent back to prison, but with such enlargement of libertie, as that he might walke within the Castle to take the ayre in any conuenient place for a prysoner, and withall had the accesse of his friendes, whereof in that extremity he had so fewe, as, a cipher in Arithmeticke woulde soone sette downe the number.

But let that passe, there did he liue God knowes in little pleasure, meditating vpon the miseries, that continually did so torment him, as neyther day nor night that he almost toke houre of quiet rest. Nowe in these intollerable passions, one whyle thinking vpon ỹ losse of his Parents, then the lacke of his friend Polidoro, an other while finding the vnkindnesse of his kinne, that in this time of imprisonment, hoping to saue a Legacy, rather looked for his ende, then wished his comfort: then calling to mynde hys Mistris, that nowe made no record of her olde kindnes,

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and by and by, looking vppon the misery of Don Piero, for his honourable entertainement, and rather relieuing of him in hys poore estate, and last of all seeing no hope of better hap, then to ende his daies in this Dungion, in these I say extremities, lyuing in many deathes, and, that comfort too long deferred: one day among other sitting in hys Chamber, looking thorough a little broken quarrell of Glasse in his Window, hee espyed comming into the Castle with many sweete Ladies and Gentlemen, no lesse sweetly accompanied then honourably attended, the Ladie Paladina his Mistris: who pacing right against his window, made (as it were) a kinde of stay, to take a kinde of view of the Castle, but now and then vnder the browes, casting a glaunce vp at her imprisoned Seruaunt. Where seeing the Jaylors neere, she called one of them to her, and as it seemed woman-like, as one that woulde knowe, if it styled not what, nor to what end, asked of him, who lay in this prison, and who in that? and so forth: when imagine, what a torture was it to the hart of Frederigo, to see his Mistris ledde by the hande, with many a sweete looke returned for a fauour, and he poore wretch, neither worthy to behold her, nor able to come neere her. But alas, little knew he the cause of her comming, was only to deuise the best meane of his comfort: for, after that she had asked first of diuers other prisoners, how they passed theyr time, how they were disposed in nature, howe long they had beene there, and last of all, when they looked for libertie.

She forgotte not among the rest, to enquire somwhat of Frederigo, of whom hearing such great commendation, as argued no ill condition: she called the Keeper aside, and in secrete vsed these few speeches vnto him. For that (qd. she) he was once my seruaunt, and I hope yet wyll prooue an honest man, vse Frederigo well I pray thee, comfort him in what thou mayst, and thy paines shall not be forgotten: when giuing him some fewe crownes, wylling him that her seruaunt should not lacke any thing that hee

had neede of, (but not to know it came from her) when she had beene about the Castle, & taken her leaue of the Captaine and the Lady, she departed, leauing Frederigo in such perplexities, as men of his fortune can best (I think) giue theyr iudgements of.

Nowe when she was gone, Frederigo, seeing his Keeper somewhat neere vnto his lodging, came downe out of his Chamber, and in a Garden right vnder his windowe walked a while with him, as wel to passe away some pensiue thoughts, as to enquire of him some such poynts of ordinary newes, as hee thought hee might be aunswered in, without suspicion of any ill meaning, eyther to the Prince or state. But hauing discoursed a while with him of such common matters, as was conuenient for him to speak of, at last he fell to vse a word or two of his Mistris, in such darke sort, as if he had neuer knowne her, or at least very much forgotten that euer he had seene her.

I pray you (quoth he) what doo you call the sweet Lady that was heere euen now, so richly apparelled, and honorably attended? Syr quoth hee, her name is Paladina, a Lady of no lesse beauty then vertue, and I may tell you, not a little honourably discended. Truely quoth Frederigo, in my opinion shee is a most fine Gentlewoman. In good truth (quoth the Keeper) sir shee is as good a creature as the earth carrieth: she is ill to no body, and ready to doo good for euery one: she is beloued of poore, rich, farre and neere: it woulde doo you good at the hart, to see with her owne handes, howe sometime shee will giue her almes to poore old people, and blinde and lame, I warrant you shee wants not a number of good prayers euery houre in the day. Oh Lord, it is the gentlest soule that I thinke liues in the worlde, it were a wicked hart could wish her hurt. And for her purse, she makes no account of money, she neuer comes hether but she relieues the poore prysoners, and so rewards vs that haue charge, that we haue cause to doo her all the seruice that we can in the world.

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Gramercie good friend (quoth Frederigo) the reward is well giuen, where it is so thankfully taken, and so well deserued: in trueth I wyll tell thee, long agoe, when I was a youth in Court, I was seruaunt to a Lady of her name, and much of her nature, but Fortune hath so cast me out of her lappe, that it is but a folly and a vaine humor for me to talke now of those courses: but yet all the misery that I haue, or (I hope) shall endure, neyther hath, nor can so pull downe my spyrit, as to make me forget the honour of my Mistris fauour, nor the comfort of her honourable kindnes: and therefore truely I will yet wish honor to thys Lady, if it be but for her names sake onely. You do well (quoth the Keeper) to continue constant in your affection, it is a true signe of honour, and not the least in discretion, and further, it may in time returne you more good then you are aware of: and for my selfe, what seruice I may do you without hurte vnto my selfe, I beseech you by commaund me, I pray you Sir want nothing that at any time you haue neede of.

Gramercy good friende (quoth Frederigo) I count it not my least happines in thys my misery, to finde so good a nature as in your selfe. Truely, if I lyue, and euer be able, I wyll not be vnthankfull: little knowing that the cause of hys kindnes came out of his Mistris coyne. But let it be as it was, after that they had thus walked a turne or two, hearing among other talke, that his friende Don Piero was discharged and gone home, (not a little to hys ioy) he espyed comming towards him, in a kind of churlish kindnes, (with a curtsie of the stiffe bending, and a cappe some of ſon) a certaine Country-companion, whose byrth and bringing vp, sounded both so of ỹ Clowne, as litle was to be looked for at his hands, that might come neere the spyrit of honour.

Thys gentle youth of some forty yeeres growth, with an eye towards a Rabbots-nest, and a face like his fathers backside, sauing his beard so out of order, that the browne-

bread crummes hung vpon his mouldy mustachies, pluck-
ing of a payre of hedging Gloues, off from his horny fists,
thrustes me a hande like a shoulder of Mutton, out of the
greese fleece of a Lether pelt, and with a good breath of
Cheese and Garlike, takes paire Frederigo by the whole
fist, and in thys filthy sort salutes him. Syr, I am glad to
see you in health, but I am sorry to see you heere, good Lord
what a mad man are you, to bring your selfe into this pic-
kle? You that might haue liued at your ease, and so bela-
ued of your Father and Mother, and all your friendes,
that you might haue beene as merry as the day was long,
and would be running to Sea, and put your selfe to such
charge, as a wise man woulde haue thought vpon long e-
nough, ere he would haue gone about: truely, truely, I am
sorry to see it, and nowe last of all, to behaue your selfe so,
that none of your kinne will come at you, nor your friends
make any great account of you, in truth you are wonder-
fully to blame. For my selfe, when I hearde it, I promise
you it greeued me not a little, and my Wife & my Daugh-
ter (it should seeme kinder creatures then himselfe) wept,
that the teares ranne downe theyr cheekes withall. Now
thys morning comming to towne, about a little money
that I receiued of a Baker, when I had dispatched my bu-
sines, I thought euen for my olde Maister your Fathers
sake, I would see you, and if you will prooue your selfe a
good Subiect, I will be gladde to doe you any good I can.
My Wife she hath sent you heere a Capon, and a couple
of Chickins, and one peece of gold I will bestowe on you,
to helpe you now and then with a cuppe of Wine.

Frederigo nowe seeing the nature of the worlde, and
that as hys fortune changed, so became his friendes kinde
or contrary, and hee that in times past, woulde creepe to
him like a dogge, for a good worde vnto his Father, by
whom he had the whole summe of hys worldly substance,
beganne now to controll hys humors, and as it were in a
manner of Charitie, to relieue hys necessitie: mattering a
little

little the height of his spyrite, which too much dysdained thys presumption in the pesant, gaue him yet thankes for hys present, and liberality, confessing, that if he had folowed his Fathers counsayle, he shoulde not haue needed hys friendes comfort, when he would faine haue beene ridde of thys rude Asse: who not finding his little welcome, comes upon him with thys newe course.

Truely Sir, I hope this will be a warning for you hencefworth, and that if you be once out of this, you wil take heede how you come into such ill company, as may bring you to the like trouble: and now that you see your Father and Mother is dead, and your freendes are charged wyth children, that they cannot dw as they would, you must dw as you may, and not as you would: the world is changed, and you must be content to take it as it falles. In trueth I would wyth you take a gwd course, and cut your coate by your cloth, euen gette you a wife and tarry at home, there are enough in the Country, that for your gwd parents sake will make much of you. Dh Lorde, if you woulde haue a shaped head, you that can write and reade, and haue seene the world, may come to thriue, and dw much gwd in our Countrey, yea and perhaps, come to be a Justice of peace en you die: I haue seene as far come as neere, I tell you, and with the grace of God, and gwd vsage, I dw not doubt to see you dw well. Truely I wil pray for you, and so I am sure will all my house.

Gramercie withall my hart quoth Frederigo, I thank thee for thy prayers. I pray thee commend me to thy good Wife, with thanks for her present, but let me this intreat thee, hencefworth to vse as little of thy counsaile as may be, for that, it little agrees with my spyrite whatsoeuer hath, ay may be my fortune: forget not the many fauours that I haue done thee, wherein with many deepe vowes, I haue bound thy duety. If thou dwst come to me in the dyscharge of thy conscience, to make knowne the honestie of thy nature, I will take it most kindly, and no lesse thankfully

fully thinke of it: but, if my friendes in name (howsoeuer in condition) haue sent you hither to try my patience, I pray thee see me when I sende for thee, which I think will not be in haste, except it be to receiue consideration for thy cost. The Clowne somwhat troubled with this aunswere, with a little more reuerence then before, with hys basket, takes his leaue of Frederigo, beseeching him to pardon his boldnes, and wherein he might, to commaund his seruice: little was the adoe at their parting, to stand vpon ceremonies, and therefore leauing the Clowne to his base condition, I will tell you on of Frederigo.

Frederigo, now finding it no little sorrow to his hart, to see him, that had beene in his time of prosperitie, so seruiceable vnto him, that hee coulde not thinke of a thing, but if it were halfe spoken, it was wholy done, and that with such carefull expedition, as no man was so readie in his seruice, but this Clowne woulde lie on the floure to be before him: and nowe the Goose that had no more witte then a Gander, and no more honour then a Ploughe horse, should now take vppon him to be a Counsailer and a controller of him, that in discretion could sette him downe for a foole: in honour, for a pesant: and in reputation, for a slaue. Ye that liued by the hand of his bounty, to become now his benefactor, and he ỹ durst scarse to looke vpon him, to stand now in a manner, check-mate with him: with no little griefe began to vse these words vnto himselfe. Ah poore Frederigo, is thys the course of the world? hath Fortune thys power to alter the course of humane nature? is there nothing but coyne that makes all conceits current? is honour subiect to disgrace? vertue to disdaine? and all good thinges to theyr contraries? Why then do I longer liue to beholde this hellish course? or rather alteration of nature? But alas, what shall I say to thee? Loue, is thys thy propertie? to leade men into ỹ gates of Paradise, and from thence to driue them into miseries? Didst thou honour me in Paladinas fauour, and nowe abandon mee her

presence:

presence? Didst thou promise mee her comfort? and performe it in my confusion? Didst thou send her to beholde my misery? and let me see her to increase my sorrow? Is it possible she came to comfort me? I cannot finde it. To kyll me? I would shee had done it. But alas, is thys the destinies that the heauens haue ordained me? or the course that the world hath affoorded mee? Or is it but the nature of loue, thus to try the humor of reason. I confesse patience to be a vertue, and hope a heauenly spyrit. But when there are two Winters together, death may fall afore Summer: and patience without comfort, brings perill of consumption: yet patience is a vertue, and vertue will be her selfe, and the heauens will fauour her when Fortune hath done her worst: why should I then despaire? No, I will not, I will yet hope of heauen, though I finde none in the world. And thus lyfting vp his eyes towarde the heauens, in a very solemne moode, went vp againe into hys Chamber, where taking his Lute in his hande, after hee had played many a solemne note, he fell to singing a Sonet of his owne inuention, which was as followeth.

SOrrow of late did sitte her downe by loue,
Writing in care, the crosses of conceit:
Patience was sette the passion to approue,
Where nature founde no death vnto deceit.

Frownes might be fruites but of afflicted thought,
Absence a griefe that presence might recouer:
Choller, a heate, but, of an humor wrought,
And checks, sometime, but chaunces of a louer.

But, trust betrayde, and kindnes grow vnkinde,
Honor disgrast, and comfort ouerthrowne:
These touch the hart, and these torment the minde
With greater griefe, then easily can be knowne.

For

For proofe wheerof, that flesh nor blood could bide:
Sorrow sanck downe, and loue with sorow died.

But let me leaue Frederigo awhile in hys melancholick musick, and tell you a little of hys friend Polidoro, that parted from him at Sea.

Polidoro, now hauing happily arrined, and passed some few moneths in the Land that he so much desired to see, and seene the Lady, that he so longed to beholde, when hee had beene no lesse fauourably receiued, then in many places in the Countrey, most honourably entertayned: when hee hadde noted all the excellencies, worth the printing in memory, the temperature of the ayre, the fertillity of the soyle, the sweetnesse of the Riuers, the plenty of Fowle, fish, and necessary animals, in great numbers, the strength of the Fortes, the situation of the Castels, the welth of the Citties, the ciuillity of the people, the maiestie of ỳ Prince, the wisedome of the Magistrates, and the obedience of the Subiectes: when he had, so sufficiently taken notice of all, that he thought necessary for his experience, remembring that among all these pleasing humors, he had not yet seene his poore friend Frederigo, and that the loue of a friend exceeded all other affection, calling to minde his promise, that with what speede he coulde, he would see him, and not forgetting the kindnesse, which bound him to loue him, with humble leaue taken at the Court, and an honourable farewell, where he was kindly entertayned, with all the speede he coulde, he made prouision to put to Sea: where I will leaue him in his earnest businesse, and I will tell you a little of the Ladie Paladina.

The Parasite, that before had bene the cause or meane of ỳ imprisonment of Frederigo, seeing Don Piero discharged, and hearing the Ladie Paladina, speake so often in the fauour of Frederigo: fearing if he did also gette liberty, his worlde would sone be at an ende, if at lest (as it was like it would be) his villany were espied, closely went to work, to

to haue an eye to the Lady Paladina, in what sort she carried her selfe, if shee sent any Letters to the prisoner, by whom they were sent, what reliefe, or rather fauour he receiued by her, or from her, and if she spake with him, what conference he had with her, insomuch as one day among other setting diuers spialles for his purpose, it fel out that a Seruaunt of the Cardinals, fitte for such a practise, watching his time, tooke a Page of the Ladies, going to the Castle, with a Letter from the Ladie to Frederigo: who, being caried before the Cardinall, and there streightly examined, with terror of great punishment, if hee were founde to tell an vntrueth, reuealed (in a maner) the whole course of such honourable kindnesse, as had passed betwixt his Mistris and her Seruaunt Frederigo: the boy for his labour closly clapt by the heeles, till further was knowne of the Cardinals pleasure.

The newes was caryed to the King of hys Neece, by whom, she was presently sent for, and with many frowns, and foule words, as wel of his Maiestie, as the Duke and Duchesse her Parents, with many other great Persons, she was presently commaunded to close prison, when the more to augment his greefe, and nothing to ease her sorrow, she was committed to the same Castle, where her seruaunt should behold her hard fortune, but with straight charge to the Captaine, vppon paine of high displeasure, not to admit them so much as the sight one of another, after she was once conueied into her lodging. Now iudge of the extremitie of Fortune, if shee could well goe any further with her furie: but yet she did, and gaue not ouer, till she had pincht him at the hart, with many a more bytter pang, and thus she vsed him. Nowe was the Parasite in the midst of hys mischiefe, now fell he to forge the hand of the poore Ladies, with such deuises of villainous matter, as might suffise with a fewe false witnesses, to bring the Lady to her end, & Frederigo to little better. To be short, thys dog or deuill, hauing now deuised the plot, dyd thus put his villanie in practise: comes to the Cardinall with

these Letters, who giuing credite to his creeping tales, after that he had well perused, and considered of them, caried them to the King, who noting wel what danger might befall, no lesse to his owne person then the whole state, if shee should not be iustly called to account, for this her vnlawfull course, to attempt eyther mariage without consent, or procuring libertie, and passing out of the Lande with a prysoner, in suspicion of misdemeanure against the state, and now proued presumptuous in this action: sitting one day in Senate with his Counsell, sent for her, who beeing examined vpon diuers poynts, to which shee answered nothing pleasing to their humors, denied at last the Letter wherwith she was charged. But I will leaue awhile to speake further of the Letter, and I will goe directly to the poynts of her examination.

First, she was examined, if she did euer loue Frederigo? She aunswered, neuer other. Then wherefore her did affect him? Her aunswer was, his desert. They asked in what point? She aunswered in many of vertue, and all of honor. They demaunded wherefore shee concealed her conceit? She aunswered, because she could not commaund theyr fauours, and was afraid of theyr displeasures: nor was it an humor in honor to make a market of loue, that law was to be claimed, and other proclaimed. They asked her how she durst so farre aduenture offence? She aunswered, that loue was neuer fearefull, where vertue leade her fortune. Thus many demaunds and aunswers passed betweene them, til the Cardinall hauing learned without booke from the pen of the good Parasite, began, (in steede of an Oration) to take her vp with these words. Madam, though I must confesse, the force of loue be such, as in all ages, hath made great warres with reason, yea and sometime with the wisest, wyll wrestle a fall of discretion, yet when will is so wanton, nay I must rather terme it wicked, as for the content of nature, will not onely forget reason, but almost all the rules of grace, what then rests to put off such a perrill, as threatens hurt to a whole state,

but

but sharpely to consider of the cause, and spédily to dw iu-stice vpon the offender. You know he hath trauiled, but where or with whō he hath conuersed, is vnknowne to vs: to whom it nédfully and rightly belongeth, to haue true notice of all trauailers, both of their words, wrytings, or actions whatsoeuer, that may any way redounde to the benefite, or contrary of the Common-wealth, nowe what betwirt you and him hath passed, that know we not, more then by this your vndiscreete, and vnlawfull, yea and vn-naturall wryting, (which you deny) may appeare. But since it is growne to thys poynt, that you will forget both your allegeance to his Maiestie, your duety and loue of your Parents, the care of your owne honor, and ỳ regard of your friendes loue, for a begger, a busie fellow, and a suspected person. What can you say for your selfe, why, how, or wherin you should or may looke for fauour.

The Lady not a little damped, with the tyrannous countenaunce of this Turkish old chappes, and yet not so without wit, but shee could speake like a woman, wyth great reuerence made him thys answer. Thys honorable place, doth not a little amaze my poore troubled spyrit, to behold in displeasure bent vpon mee, the eyes of my best and deerest friends in this world, one onely except, the subiect of my present misery, but my hope of most happy comfort: but when I looke towards the heauens, frō whence commeth the true comfort of the afflicted conscience, then haue I that life, that bids mee feare no death vpon an vn-iust condemnation: and therefore for Don Frederigo, let me truely aunswer. What his trauailes haue beene, I am not a litle perswaded that you sufficiently know, to put off all suspition of ill thought, eyther to any in this place, or the best members in this Country: and for my affection, whē I did first fansie him, his Maiestie did grace him, your ho-nors did fauor him, and who honest that did not loue him: Yet such was the honor of his spyrit, as to deserue fauour in Court, honor of my loue, and loue of his Country, hee hath in all our quarrels, against our enemies aduentured

his fortune: which because it hath bene vnkinde, shall I therefore be vnconstant? No, let the worlde rather thinke me vniust, then loue prooue me vnhonorable: and therfore my Lord, for my selfe, loue beeing the grounde of my offence, death shall neuer feare me, my conscience no further corrupted. But my Lord, I wonder that in thys place, and at thys time you wyll be so great a president, of little honor, as with so base termes to remember the name of Frederigo, though he be a prysoner: if hee begge, it is the restraint of loue, where vertue may haue honour: if hee be busie, it is with very little where he lies: and if suspected without cause, he may be cleered with more credit. Now for my selfe, I seeke no fauor but iustice, which if not here, in heauen I am sure of.

Why (quoth the Cardinall) doe you deny this writing, shewing her the Letter, whereupon she was accused of high offence. I defie (quoth she) the writer. You wyll yeeld (quoth he) that you haue written to him. Yea quoth she, and desired to speake with him. Is it lawful quoth he, to speake with a prysoner without leaue? Leaue quoth she? To tell you the trueth, loue gaue mee the will that sought no other warrant. But qd. hee, shall will be accepted for law? Loue qd. she may be taken for a reason. Yea but qd. he, our Lawes admits no such reason. Nay quoth she, would you not say rather, your reason, admits no such law? You forget quoth he where you are, or knowe not what you say. I pray God (qd. she) you remember where you must be, and then you will the better knowe what to doo. Well Lady (qd. he) I am sorry, that your owne hand doth witnes against you, that the practise betwixt you and your companion atchiued, some of vs should haue sitte vnquiet in thys place: and therefore since your accuser dooth auouch it with his othe, witnes confirme it, and you can but faintly denie it, except you can better aunswer it with more shew of trueth, you are to aunswere the Lawe with your life. For better it were to cut off a hand, then let it be a hurt to the whole body, especially when it dooth exercise

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it selfe, in scratching out the eyes, stopping the mouth, choking the throat, or beating out the braines. If it had beene looked to when it might haue beene helped, it might with good care, haue done the body meete seruice: but growne to the force, that will not be commaunded, it must be cutte off, there is no remedy. Truly, there is no man more sorie then my selfe, but since iustice is the badge of vertue, the state of peace, and the maintenaunce of honour, for the Kings safety, the quiet of the state, and your owne honor, which, if it be cleere of crime, will be the more famous in vertue, I must pronounce this sentence against you. That for twenty daies, you must rest prysoner in the Castle from whence you came, in which time, if you can eyther sufficiently cleere your conscience, before the worlde, of of your most heynous accusations, or finde some such person of honour, as will challenge the Combat vpon your accuser, in the tryall of your cause, and defence of your honour, you shall be denied no benefite of the Lawe: but if neyther of these you can do, then with deepe sorrowe, let me tell you, with your death you must aunswere your indiscretion: which, if you haue deserued, I would wish you with patience to endure.

The Lady, not once at all thys tale, nor any part of it, chaunging colour, with a modest, and yet liuely spyrit, began thus againe to reply. My Lord, I thanke you for your fatherly counsaile, which in sicknes were farre more comfortable, then nowe it is eyther kinde or conscionable. For let me tell you, if the foote be about to treade downe the head, and the hand be blamed but for helping the body, he that knowes the course of nature, will take that Physitian for no Phylosopher. And therfore, for the Kings glorie, the honour of the state, and the safety of my life, looke well into mine accuser, ere you giue iudgement vppon inditement. If I haue deserued death, I desire it. If my conscience be cleere, let it come I will neuer feare it, and truth hath such fauour in the heauens, that the worlde shall neuer ouerthrow her. Now for further meanes then denial

will I not make, I meane of my false Letter, my loue I confesse to Frederigo, and if I finde none to defend the honor of my cause, let me die rather for my loue, then liue to be deadly hated: and ende my daies in as true loue to Frederigo, as I knowe and protest hys loyaltie to thys state. Well, quoth the Cardinall, your wordes can not excuse your deeds, and therfore knowing your doome, you must be content to depart. When with a number of weeping eyes, (that no lesse pitied her sorrow, then feared her death) she returned to the Castle, where let me leaue her for a while, and tell you a little further of Frederigo.

Frederigo, now so ouer-loden with miseries, that hee knew not how to haue the least part of a thought of pleasure, hauing heard by his Keeper of hys Mistris miserie, so far as without fear of hurt he durst deliuer it vnto him. After that he had with many sighes, sobs, and (in secrete) most bitter teares, passed ouer many melancholy thoughts, one while seeing death ready to execute the last part of sorrow, another while seeing sorrow increasing, by the Fates cruel prolonging the abridgement of hys paine: now comforted with the constancie of his Mistris kindnes, and by and by kylled, with the conceit of her sorrow for hys sake, now loking towards heauen, and anon seeing the kind of hell that he liued in: nowe reuiuing with a hope of some vnlooked for happinesse, and by and by strooke dead with the despaire of al hope almost whatsoeuer. In fine, so borne dowine with sorrow, as he had almost no thought of comfort, in the midst of all this misery, passing from one passion to another, with that extremity of griefe that had almost no remedy, but in the graue: throwing himselfe vpon hys bedde, after he had lyen awhile musing vpon hys incomparable crosses, he tooke pen & yncke and paper, and as a man halfe bestraught, wrote this issue of hys humor.

A Mong the groues, the woods and thicks,
The bushes, brambles, and the bryers:

The ſhrubbes, the ſtubbes, the thornes and pricks,
The ditches, plaſhes, lakes and myers:

Where fiſh, nor fowle, nor birde nor beaſt,
Nor lyuing thing may take delight:
Nor reaſons rage may looke for reſt,
Till hart be dead of hatefull ſpight:

Within the Caue of cares vnknowne,
Where hope of comfort all decayes,
Let me with ſorrow ſitte alone,
In dolefull thoughts to end my dayes.

And when I heare the ſtormes ariſe,
That troubled ghoſts doe leaue the graue:
With helliſh ſoundes of horrors cries,
Let me goe looke out of my Caue.

And when I feele what ſtormes they bide,
That doe the greateſt torments proue:
Then let not me the ſorrow hide,
That I doe ſuffer by my loue.

Where loſſes, croſſes, care, and griefe,
With rufull, hatefull, ſpightfull ſpight:
Without all hope of haps reliefe,
Doe tugge and teare the hart to nought.

But ſigh, and ſay, and ſing, and ſweare:
It is too much for one to beare.

When he had thus ended his paſſion, I meane in writing, carelelly he left it in his Chamber, where his Keeper finding it falne on the floure, as a thing of little account, when he had peruſed, and taken a true copie of it, he ſecretlie loſt it where he founde it, but carrying it to a Page of the Lady Paladina in her Chamber, who hauing prettie

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ſkill in Muſick, ſette a note vnto it aunſwerable to the humor of the dittie, and one euening, beeing commaunded in a ſolemne penſiuenes to make her a little muſicke, tooke his Lute, and began to ſing her the ſong that he had gotten of the Keeper: which when ſhee had with ſuch attentiue eare, heard plainely ſung once or twiſe ouer, at laſt ſhe asked of the Page, where he had or how he came by that dittie? who hauing tolde her ſo much, as might eaſily giue her vnderſtanding from whence it came, ſhee fell into a ſuddaine paſſion, to thinke of her Seruaunts perplexitie, and in that melancholick humor, commaunding her Page to his pleaſure, to take his paſtimes with his play-fellowes within the Caſtle, ſhe tooke her penne and yncke and paper, and woman-like, wrote a fewe lines of her humor as followeth.

WHere are the torments of a louer? In their fancie.
What hurt is hardeſt to recouer? Such a franzie.
Oh, ſildom curde is hart agrieu'd: Seeld or neuer.
And yet in time to be relieu'd: Then and euer.
And paine by patience is appeaſed: So it ſhould be.
And loue by loue may beſt be eaſed: So it would be.
And hope is found a heauenly Iewell: Loue obtained.
But Fortune is a friende too cruell: Loue diſdained.
Oh, then diſdaine doth kill the louer: So it proueth.
Whē ſweet good nature muſt giue ouer: That ſhe loueth.
But, hart giue ouer loue once ſetled: Though I hide it.
No, no, my hart is too much netled: To abide it.

Now, when ſhe had thus ſette down her fanſie, ſhe called for her Page, to whome with promiſe of reward, if he pleaſed her humor, ſhe gaue theſe verſes, to haue them fitted with ſuch a note, as might beſt agrée with their nature: which done, with many a deepe ſigh, fetched from a deadly ſorrow, ſhe entred into this parlée with her ſelfe. Alas poore wretch, what canſt thou now deuiſe for thy cōfort? if truth haue no more fauour in the heauens, then by the falſhood

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of the worlde to sée her honor troden downe, what will become of thy case? Thou art accused of little better thē treason, although by a Traitor to all true honour. Thou art in displeasure for loue, the very Angell of this lyfe. Thou art imprisoned for the kings safty, whose happines is thy hourly prayer. Thou art cōdemned by Lawe, and yet art clére in conscience. Yea, thou must suffer death, that deseruest no part of disgrace. But more then this, what hast thou before thine eyes, to torment euery vaine in thy hart? The kings displeasure, thy parents hatred, thy friends disdain, thy seruants disobedience, the worldes defame, the rigor of the Law, and the vtter ruine of thy true friend Frederigo: and will not all this make an ende of thée? Must thou yet endure more, before thou hast disgested this. Well Frederigo, continue constant, for I will neuer be vnkinde, and if I liue, thou shalt know my loue, if I die, then, yet forgette not my affection: but my good wag, amidst al my sorowes, let me giue thée a word of a wanton, tel me how thou dost? Alas thou dost not heare me, and how then canst thou answere me? Shall I writ vnto thée? who dare cary it? shall I becken vnto thee? the stone wals are to thick to sée thorowe. Shall I think thee a good thought, els let neuer good come to my thinking. But let me sée, my Page is acquainted with his keeper, but wil he be secret? Is he come of that vertue to commaund Fortune? Or wil he not bewray me? and so yet further procure my discomfort. Alas, that I had either the diuine knowledge, to knowe what will befall me, or the earthly authority, to do what would content me: but the one I haue not, and the other I cannot haue. What shall I then do? Weary my fansie with wishes? Consume my time in cogitations? and so pine away with pensiuenes, that if comfort doe come, it will be boteless. No, no, vertue neuer sorowed, but for the worlds vanity: loue neuer toke thought, but neere her liues end: nor hope of heauen had euer feare of hel. Then let the world do his worst, I feare not: Fortune shew her fury, I defie her: and death do his execution, I am ready for it. But yet, ere I die, let

me somewhat acquaint my Frederigo with my conceit, it may be, it will not be the least comfort, in his calamity: speake to him I must not, writ to him I may not, and see him I cannot. What shall I then do? I will worke a little handkercher, in the midst of which I will in a knot close together our names: about the sides, the Letters of our thoughts, all which shall be vnderstood, in this worde loue: at euery corner, our sorrowes: which shalbe vnderstood, in teares falling, and flowers springing: the lace shalbe thred of lyfe, which shall neuer breake, till the handkercher bee worne. This will I finde the meane, to haue conueied to my Frederigo: whose discretion, I know sufficient, to finde out the misterie of a greater matter. But thus will I leaue her a while, in the midst of her muses, howe to finish her inuention, and I will tell you a little of Polidoro, that I left comming to seeke his friend Frederigo.

Polidoro, now hauing long lyen beating at sea, tost in many a bitter storme, knockt against many a Rocke, grating against diuers sands, & escaping many a flaw of wind wherewith hee hadde lyke often, to haue beene cast away: at last with the helpe of the heauenly powers, descrying a long wished for shore, making all the speed to the hauen that he could, and yet for lacke of wind, not able to put in with that tide, lay at ancker, vpon a roade at the pointe of the Land, where ỹ weather being at that time, no worse, then his shippe might ride without daunger, hee lay there for that night: but the nert morning, with the tide put into the hauen, and with some fewe attendants, a Page or two and a foot-man, came on shore, where, as traueilers commonly are in places of ciuill gouernement, hee was with great courtezy entertained: now something wery with hys long lying at Sea, with desire of some comfort of the fresh ayre, to take a little rest, before he would take his trauaile towardes the Court, with such good company, as he there found, passed away a fewe daies in such pleasing exercises, and ordinary discourses, as might best content his disposition: wher I will leaue him for a while, to take such plea-

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ture, as the Coutrey for his coine would yeelde him, and I will tell you a little of the poore afflicted Frederigo.

Frederigo one euening hearing vnder his window, hys Mistris Page, by his keeper sitting vppon a bench, singing the song, that he of his sorrow had lately set downe, began to grow into many straung humors, touching the same. As first, how came he by it: or had an other ioined issue with euery word in his thought: or was it possible, ỹ his Mistris could become so good a Poet: or could his keeper haue such a vaine in his head: or had his keeper stolne it from hym: Why, he had it in his Desk fast locked: but durst hee haue it song, if he had it: and what was there in it to forbid him: Surely it was his own doing, but why did the boy sing it: Did his Mistris euer heare it: Giue him leaue to sette the note: Or command him to sing the ditty: Or did she send him: or the keeper bring him: Or he of himselfe aduenture thether: Well, be howe it was, it was his, howsoeuer it came into their handes, for whose well handling, (hauing little other mony, yet looking only into his mind) he threw out vnto them, the peece of gold, that he had receiued of the good olde youth his fathers man: which thankfully accepted, the page sang vnto him, the ditty ỹ his mistris had lately giuen him to set a note vnto: which ended, and the Keeper called for, about some necessary seruice in the house, away goes the page with him, leauing Frederigo in a world of troubled thoughtes, which since I cannot helpe, I will leaue him for awhile to patience, as his best remedy, and I wyll returne againe to the Lady Paladina.

When the Lady Paladina, had finished in as great hast, as she wished good spéed, her handkercher for her seruaunt Frederigo, the time came, that the Lawe muste haue his course, and she must either finde meanes to confute her accusation, or some such knight, as in the honour of vertue, would challenge the combat, in the defence of her right, either of which, shee altogether vnable to compasse: (to be short) the day came, that she must aunswere to her tryall: the Iudges set in place of iudgment: the accuser ready to

maintaine his accusation: the world, of that world come to heare the inditement: the Lady was sent for: who beeing brought before the Senat, to aunswere to al such matters, as there she shoulde bee charged with, nothing amazed at the sight of this solemne company, the Iudge frowning, the Cardinall bent to her little comfort, her accuser in presence, ready to maintaine his villainous accusation, the Executioner of the last part of iustice, orderly standing in his place, and the Law, threatning in all likelihood, the end of her lyfe: a stage beeing made for the purpose, where the accuser, the offendant, and the executioner had place from the presse of the people, the Cardinal with these few words gaue the iudgment, that might be the end of her sorow.

Madame, I know it is not a little greefe, to a number in this company, to see you in this place, in this sort, and vpon this cause, to receiue the vertue of Lawe, and the right of Iustice: I knowe there is none of any good spyrite, but in heart doth mourne for you, as well for the vertuous linage, wherof you are honorably descended, as for the hope ỳ was had of your good disposition, to come to no little worthy aduancement: but since so foule is ỳ cause, as neither your conscience can cleere, nor any friend will take vpon him to maintaine, I know no cause, why sentence of iudgement shoulde not iustly proceede against you. The Lady, to this wonder of all the people, with a liuely eye, a cherry cheeke, and a blood red lyp, nothing damped at his dolefull threat, nor fearing the effect of his deadly fury, with a most bolde, but modest countenaunce, made hym this aunswere.

My Lord, trueth standes not vpon the tongues of men, nor honour, vpon the frownes of authority: it shall suffise for the discharge of conscience, that death is more welcom to vertue, then disgrace to honour, my accuser I rather forgiue then requite: the accusation I vtterly denie: friendes are far from the oppressed, and who is he that dares offend a farre meaner then a Cardinall? who mourneth for me, let it be for my wrong: and who will doe me any good, let them pray for my soules health: as for this carkas, it is but

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a tronck of base substance, and so I estéeme it: but, yet if Susanna be a true storye, then may be a new Daniell: which word was scarcely out, when Polidoro, comming vp to the Court, and hearing of this strange arraignement, of a poore destressed Lady, of a suddaine comes into the place, and with his sworde in his hande, to the great admiration of all the company, throwing down his Gauntlet, challenged the Combat of the accuser, & in the honour of the Lady, offered the aduenture of his lyfe: which, by order of theyr Lawe not to be refused, the Gauntlet taken vppe, and the challenger with the defendant, taken in hand by the pointe of the sword, to make the tryall of the cause: within a little tyme the matter was decided, the accuser vanquished, and the Lady, to the great ioy of al the beholders so wholy cleered, of all suspicion of offence, as the Parasite that had first deuised the practice, was, (after many confessions of his most detestable villanies, as well against Don Frederigo, Don Piero, the Lady Paladina, and diuers other in the Countrey) fayre hanged vp vppon a Iebbet, in the veiw of all the beholders, vpon whose death, his life beeing no better, I thinke there was no man woulde take the paines to write hys Epitaph, and therefore let him there hange, till his fellowes come to him, and let me tell you on of the Lady, and her newe Champion: who, by the order of the Lawe of that Countrey, when he had wonne her by the sword, was, with all the honor that might be deuised, in all happines to enioy her, who no sooner hearing of ỳ name of Frederigo, but laying aside all other fortunes whatsoeuer, would be satis-fied with nothing, but with the sight of hys friende Frederigo: and therefore commending his sweete Ladie, to the honourable and kinde regarde of her best friends, he gat leaue of the King & the cheefe of hys Senat, to haue a sight of his deere friende Frederigo: when after that he had that night beene with no little royall feastings, diuine Musique, and many dayntie deuises, most honourably entertained, the next day with the Kings fauour, hee went vnto the Castle, from whence with hope of great fa-

uour, hée brought the poore dystressed Frederigo: with whome hauing many discourses of both their fortunes, but Frederigos chiefe miseries, he grue into such an old humor of loue, as he vowed either to leaue his carkas in the Contrey, or to procure him the substaunce of his worldes comfort: & therfore being offered by the King, & the Duke her father, with other of such authority, as might (in a manner) rule the whole mater, that he should for his due, both chaleng and obtaine the Lady for his loue, hee entreated, that since she was not with the heauens fauour, at his direction to dispose, in the right of honour shee might bee on him bestowed, to whom in the care of conscience, of vertue honour, and true loue, she was by the heauens allotted, and by the world to be allowed, which (though in iustice not to be denyed, yet vnwillingly yeelded) was, with much adoe, thus far graunted: that if she would during the lyfe of the King, abandon the Contrey, and take that course of honor, that might returne to the state no disgrace, she shoulde by his sute and for his sake obtaine such fauor, as neither her fortune promised, nor her desarts (more then in his vertue) could challenge: much adoe there was, ere the poore prysoner Frederigo, coulde haue liberty, the Lady fauour, or Polidoro, his request: but in the ende when the Cardinall saw, that if she were rid the Country, there were no feare of further mischeife, so perswadded the King, as with the consent of the Senat, both she and her Seruant were sent away with Polidoro, to Sea, to passe into such a Countrey as hee to his best content shoulde cary them: and so let me leaue the King with the Cardinall, and the rest of his Senat and Court, and let me tel you of a new course that fortune began, for her last farewell with Frederigo.

When Frederigo, was nowe with his good friend Polidoro, and his deere Lady Paladina, after many teares and dolefull signes of loue, in taking leaue at parting, gotten aboorde, with his freindes, and with a pinnace or two to attend his shyp, put out into the sea: now began Fortune to lay the ygons of her mischife in ẏ fyre. For scarce they were

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out into the maine, bending their course towards Polidoro his Countrey, a greater man in account, then hee would yet be knowne for: scarce I say they were forty Leagues at Sea, when they mette with a Pyrat, so well furnished with all matters for his purpose, that at this shyp he made a quarrell, first sent a bullet or two of such a mould, as made no small holes in the shyppe sides, and comming a little neerer, gaue first a broade side of shotte, as made her strike Sayle, and after the losse of many people, yeelded to the mercy of the Pyrate, which Polidoro and Frederigo, so unwilling to consent vnto, as that they rather desired death, then lyfe in such disgrace: setting vppe their rest in the resolution of their honour, fought it out so long, til they put the enimie to flight, and with many wounded persons, betwirt halfe dead and scarce aliue, gat themselues to an Iland, that they next came in sight off: wher no sooner arriued, but they found Polidoro sore woũded, of which hurt within a few daies after, he dyed, with the sorrow whereof, the Lady liued not long after, wherby poore Frederigo was depriued of all earthly pleasure: when bestowing the greatest part of his welth vpon his people in his shyp, with some little peece of substaunce, to maintaine him and hys poore Page, leauing the worlde to the wofull course of nature, betoke himselfe to the lyfe of an Hermite, when in a Caue, at the bottom of a hill, neere adioyning vnto a great wood, at the side of a plaine, he ended the rest of his daies: after whose death, his Page, hauing followed him many yeeres, and seene the crossenes of his fortune, taking many secret notes, of the strange passage of his lyfe, wrote thys true, as he termed it, but truely melancholike discourse of the life and death of his Master Don Frederigo di Terra nuoua.

FINIS.